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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

REVIEW OF REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AFFECTED AFRICAN COUNTRY PARTIES, INCLUDING ON THE PARTICIPATORY PROCESS AND ON EXPERIENCES GAINED AND RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

Addendum

COMPILATION OF SUMMARIES AS PRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY AFRICAN COUNTRY PARTIES*

Note by the secretariat

1. The Conference of the Parties, by its decisions 11/COP.1 and 5/COP.2, requested the secretariat to prepare a report based on the information contained in national reports, to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its third session. Only African country Parties are required to present their reports to COP.3.

2. Decision 11/COP.1 provided guidelines and procedures for organizing and presenting the national reports and required in particular a summary of the national reports, not exceeding six pages.

3. This document contains the summaries of national reports submitted by eight African country Parties. The concerned countries are: Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa. The secretariat will also make this compilation of summaries of national reports available on the Convention's Website (**www.unccd.de**) for wider circulation.

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1. National strategies and plans in the socio-economic field

With regard to infrastructure and basic social services, some major programmes and initiatives are in progress or due to be undertaken. These include:

- The National Programme for the Construction of Rural Roads, covering 11,200 kilometres;

- The Programme for Grouped Supply of Drinking Water to Rural Populations: 31,000 localities, for the benefit of 11 million inhabitants;

- The Comprehensive Rural Electrification Programme, which provides for the electrification of 150,000 homes by the year 2010, i.e. a rate of electrification of about 80 per cent;

- The Social Priorities Programme (BAJ1), which aims to improve access to basic education and reduce the disparities in school enrolment between boys and girls.

2. National strategies and plans to combat desertification given priority for the CCD

Several plans, strategies and programmes have been instituted recently. Some of these plans, strategies and programmes have a clearly stated sectoral scope. Others, fewer in number, have instead a horizontal mission of integrated development, involving several actors. These plans and programmes include:

1. National Plan to Combat Desertification: the National Plan to Combat Desertification was elaborated in 1986, in accordance with the recommendations of the International Conference on Desertification held at Nairobi in 1997.

2. National Catchment Basin Management Plan: the elaboration of this plan commenced in 1990. It was finalized and approved at the national seminar organized in 1995.

3. National Irrigation Programme: the National Irrigation Programme combines the elements of State policy on intervention in the irrigated sector between 1993 and the year 2000. This programme is concerned with 250,000 hectares of new developments and 200,000 hectares of rehabilitation of existing perimeters. It enabled the irrigated area in Morocco to be increased to approximately 1 million hectares in 1997, out of a potential irrigable area of around 1,350,000 hectares.

4. Master Plan for the Conservation of Bour Land: the elaboration of this plan is part of the new policy of the public authorities,

which are more responsive to the requirements of development of rain-fed agricultural zones abandoned for a long time.

5. Master Plan on Reforestation: the elaboration of this plan, finalized in 1997, is in keeping with a recommendation formulated in the forestry development strategy.

6. Master Plan for Protected Areas: this plan, elaborated in 1994, aims to identify and map sites of biological and ecological interest, classify them in accordance with the international nomenclature and propose methods for managing the sites that would guarantee their conservation and proper utilization.

7. Rangeland Development Strategy: this strategy is one of the options to combat desertification, protect the environment and mitigate the hazards that penalize the most deprived social categories. It involves a radical reconsideration of the approach to pastoral management in all its phases of design, execution and follow-up and evaluation.

8. Rural development project for the western Rif: launched in 1965 and redefined in 1968, this project is intended to contribute to the rural development of the western Rif and deal with the risks of erosion threatening the region.

9. Integrated development projects: these projects, which are a comprehensive and voluntarist option in public agricultural policy, concern a generation of projects promoted by the World Bank at the end of the 1970s.

Several important lessons may be drawn from these experiences and serve to guide future action better. They can be summarized as a lack of integration and of an overall vision, with the predominance of sectoral approaches, insufficient institutional machinery for consultation, and poor mobilization of the key actors: farmers, local communities, professional organizations, NGOs, etc.

The holding of the Rio Conference and all that entailed in terms of international conventions and the adoption of basic principles, provided new momentum with emphasis on the concepts of consultation, integration and participation and giving civil society a central role in the conduct of the development process.

3. Institutional measures taken to implement the Convention

National Coordinating Body (NCB)

At the institutional level, the structures and bodies set up with a view to achieving sustainable development and combating desertification are:

- The National Environmental Council (CNE) and its regional and local forums, the regional environmental councils and local environmental councils.

- The National Committee to Combat Desertification (CNLCD).

- The National Coordinating Body forming the core of the CNLCD and bringing together the actors most involved in activities for the implementation of the CCD, in particular the Departments of Agriculture, Water and Forests, Equipment and the Environment, and representatives of NGOs.

- The focal point for the Convention, located in the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries.

Institutional framework to combat desertification

Among the most important measures adopted with regard to institutional adjustment and strengthening and to combating desertification, we may note:

- The revision, in 1995, of the powers of the National Environmental Council and their broadening by the establishment of regional and provincial environmental councils;

- The institution, in 1999, of an interministerial council and interministerial committee for rural development to give greater impetus to the rural development process;

- The promulgation, in 1995, of Law No. 33/94 concerning the perimeters for utilization of bour land. This law establishes the legal framework for intervention (management-protection-partnership) at local level.

- The study and proposed reform of the institution of agricultural credit facilities (CNCA) and credit arrangements for farmers by developing particular mechanisms for the revitalization of family smallholdings not eligible for ordinary loans.

Among the capacity-building measures, we may note in particular:

- The Action 30 capacity building programme, supported by UNDP as part of the Capacity 21 programme and with the assistance of UNFPA.

- The Morocco/UNDP cooperation programme MOR/97/004 (support for environmental protection; natural resource management and promotion of renewable and alternative sources of energy). This programme (1997/2001) is focused on local capacity building (mainly bour exploitation zones).

4. NAP integrated within the Economic and Social Development Plan (ESDP)

The simultaneous preparation of the ESDP (1999/2003) and of the NAP/Morocco is a fortunate coincidence favouring integration of the basic concerns entailed by the implementation of the CCD with respect to economic and social development.

At the same time, a subregional programme has been identified and supervised by the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) for the purpose of combating desertification in the North African region.

5. Coherent and functional legislative and regulatory framework

The legal and institutional component was the subject of a study dealing with the main existing provisions and analysing and formulating proposals for their revision, harmonization and redesign.

The redesign and revisions proposed are guided by the desire to promote interventions for rural development and protection of natural resources, based on a new conception of the State's role, including within the context of decentralization, and on the fundamental principle of enhanced responsibility of local actors.

6. Participatory process to support the elaboration and implementation of the action programme: effective participation of the actors concerned in defining national priorities

The involvement of local as well as national actors in the process of elaboration and subsequent implementation of the national action programme is a decisive and necessary condition for maximizing the benefit of the CCD.

In Morocco, the informational and consultation process for the elaboration of the NAP was effected in two separate stages initiated respectively in 1994 (information, awareness-raising) and 1998 (local and regional consultations).

Participation in decentralized workshops is largely ensured by the local populations concerned and their professional and representative bodies, as well as by local NGOs, etc.

Furthermore, five awareness-raising and consultation workshops, designed specifically to provide for the greater involvement and mobilization of women in efforts to combat desertification, are being held in 1999. The purpose of organizing these events is to promote gender equality in the process of implementation of the CCD.

7. Consultation process: effective support by international partners

The operational plan pursued for the elaboration of the NAP and particularly the stage expected to lead to a national meeting for its approval during the summer of 1999 was established with the collaboration and assistance of the main external partners involved in the process in Morocco, namely the Federal Republic of Germany (GTZ), UNDP/UNSO, UNITAR and OSS.

In addition to their participation in the NAP planning meetings, these partners intervene, according to their specific fields of competence, in various working meetings and workshops on awareness-raising and consultation at national and local levels.

8. Measures taken or planned as part of the national action programme; adequate diagnosis of previous experiences

The analysis of experiences and projects led to a thoroughgoing review which gave rise to major changes in the thinking and practice of development agencies. There can be no doubt that in respect of the approach to the agricultural sector, substantial advances have been recorded. The key words in the new terminology are proper utilization and protection of water and land resources and participation. Even more significant in these changes is the markedly less technical and less centralized nature of the approach. In terms of hierarchy, despite the priority given to the irrigated sector in investment, it should be noted that increasing attention is being paid to other areas (rain-fed agriculture, forest sector and pastoral management) by the authorities.

9. Technical programmes and functional and integrated projects to combat desertification

Some of the above-mentioned plans and programmes have a clearly defined sectoral scope. Others, fewer in number, have instead a horizontal mission of integrated development, involving several actors.

The concepts of sustainable development associated with Agenda 21 and those underlying the implementation of the CCD increasingly constitute benchmarks and the rule for the revision and adaptation of various existing plans and strategies.

The NAP in preparation is designed as a programme linking and harmonizing these various plans and strategies.

10. Action programme executed in accordance with the priority areas contemplated by the Convention

Within the framework of preparation for the NAP and pending its adoption, expected in the summer of 1999, the actions identified and due to be introduced gradually in the various existing plans and strategies and to constitute the fundamental elements for the implementation of the NAP cover the concerns of control of the inventory of resources, promotion and progressive generalization of the concept of conservation-based management of resources, the establishment of a funding mechanism, the successful operationalization of the SCID and encouragement of subregional, regional and international cooperation efforts.

11. Links established with the subregional and regional action programme

- NAP/SRAP integration: it is envisaged that the two programmes should be complementary, with the SRAP supporting and promoting the implementation of the NAP.

- With regard to cooperation in scientific follow-up and evaluation, three projects involving Morocco and other African countries are being undertaken; these are the "Green belt for North African countries" project, the ROSELT project and the CAMELEO project.

12. Effectiveness of local capacity-building measures

The most important structural measures relating to local capacity-building include:

- The institution of regionalization and decentralization (Law No. 7/96 of April 1997);
- The promulgation of Law No. 33/94 on perimeters for bour exploitation;
- Revision of the rules concerning forests and the preparation of a forest code;
- The institution of a standing interministerial council and a standing interministerial committee on rural development.

13. Financial resources allocated from the national budget to support the implementation of the Convention and financial assistance and technical cooperation received and required, with an indication of needs and their order of priority

With regard to internal mechanisms and sources of funding, several initiatives for the reform and adaptation of existing mechanisms to the requirements of local development have been undertaken or are about to commence; these concern the rural development fund, the road fund, the youth employment fund and the communal equipment fund, as well as the reform of agricultural credit facilities and arrangements for loans to farmers and the direction of investment by Moroccan Nationals Abroad (RME) to economic activities and services in rural areas.

14. Financing acquired and requested for the plan

The regular functioning of the CNLCD and of the steering committees is the responsibility of the ministerial departments concerned and in particular the Departments of Agriculture and of Water and Forests (CCD focal point).

The NAP-Morocco process is accompanied and supported by the Federal Republic of Germany, UNDP, OSS and UNITAR. The Federal Republic of Germany and UNDP have made a financial contribution of about $100,000 for the first and $30,000 for the second.

15. Technical cooperation

In this area, the NAP components for which a need for assistance was felt and expressed are the establishment of the national profile of efforts to combat desertification and the implementation of the SCID/Morocco, the design of indicators and a system of follow-up and evaluation of the efforts to combat desertification, as well as assistance in the formulation of projects to combat desertification and their submission to the global mechanism.

The first two components, i.e. the establishment of the SCID and the system of indicators, are covered by complementary assistance from UNITAR and OSS. Funding is being sought for the proposed project concerning indicators, in particular from IFAD.

16. Review of benchmarks and indicators used to measure and evaluate progress achieved: functional mechanisms for follow-up and evaluation

Databases are being established and updated by the competent structures under the Departments of Agriculture, Water and Forests, Equipment, Environment and Planning.

With regard to the mobilization and use of various data by the CNLCD, the two innovations referred to under item IV, namely the SIDE and SCID systems, are the most important areas of work.

MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique signed the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1994 and in November 1996 the CCD was ratified by the Parliament.

The implementation of the CCD activities is coordinated by the Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs (MICOA) created in 1994 which has the mandate to coordinate, supervise and monitor environmental management in Mozambique and encourage and support other sectors in the proper planning and utilization of the country's natural resources. MICOA is the national focal point for the implementation of the Convention.

A National Coordinating Body (NCB) comprising representatives of the main institutions dealing with issues related to drought and/or desertification has been set:

- The Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs (the CCD focal point);
- The National Directorate of Forestry and Wildlife (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries);
- The National Directorate of Agriculture (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries);
- The National Directorate of Waters (Ministry of Public Works and Housing);
- The National Institute of Meteorology (the Ministry of Transport and Communications).

The private sector and University Departments have nominated contact persons who participate on an ad hoc basis on their activities related to UNCCD.

The NCB is coordinating the preparation of the National Action Plan (NAP) and the establishment of the National Desertification Fund (NDF) in collaboration with relevant institutions.

The NCB is not yet formalized and is currently preparing a draft proposal in order to become an official body with relative autonomy, responding directly to the Permanent Secretary or Minister for Coordination of Environmental Affairs.

The NCB has established a network with its core at MICOA meeting monthly to evaluate and/or review programme of activities. The NCB is creating an inventory of all the databases existent in the country relevant for drought and desertification matters.

The NCB members would greatly benefit from capacity-building aimed at making them more effective in their activities and/or roles. This assistance is required for capacity-building.

For the preparation of the NAP members of the NCB travelled to drought prone areas in the country to raise awareness and collect views at both the local community level and the level of authorities or decision makers.

The current stage of the NAP process comprises the dissemination of information and the creation of awareness of the different stakeholders (decision-making bodies, local communities, NGOs, etc.) for the First National Forum on CCD planned for the last quarter of 1999. During the NAP preparation process meetings were organized with local communities and representatives of relevant institutions (Agriculture, Health, NGOs, etc.) at the local and district levels for selected provinces only. The main objective of the meetings is to collect information regarding:

- Role of women regarding natural resources use and management;
- Projects considered a priority by the local stakeholders;
- Indigenous knowledge on drought and desertification combat.

Constraints to more complete participatory process include:

- Lack of capacity for NCB members;
- Lack of resources (cars, human resources, funds, communications, etc.);
- Existence of remote areas with poor access;
- Landmines limit the access to some rural areas;
- Poor communications in many rural areas.

At higher government level the awareness-building programme is in process.

The main constraints for the formulation of the NAP are:

- Lack of technical capacity;
- Lack of human and material resources;
- Lack of financial resources;
- Weak inter-institutional coordination;
- The NCB is not a formalized body. Its members can only allocate 5 per cent to 10 per cent of their time to carry out NAP activities, due to other responsibilities at their places of work;
- Weak communication, etc., in Mozambique.

The Government of Mozambique has formulated and adopted a National Environmental Management Programme (NEMP) in 1995, which is the master plan for the environment in Mozambique. The NEMP contains the Environmental Policy of Mozambique, the framework Environmental Laws and the strategy to address the environmental problems of the country.

The overall objective of the NEMP is to address environmental management as an important component of the Government's five-year programme for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

With regard to the CCD key targets NEMP include:

- Ensuring adherence to and implementation of international conventions;
- Establishment of comprehensive information system to analyse and monitor status of natural resources.

The Framework Environmental Law was passed by the Parliament in October 1997. Relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Framework Law provides for the creation of a National Council of Sustainable Development to pronounce on sectoral policies related to the natural resources management and proposals on international conventions dealing with environmental aspects.

Other recently approved policies and legislation which will be taken into account in the formulation of the NAP are the following.

Land Policy (1995) and Land Law (1995) which guarantees customary or traditional land access rights of rural population.

Forest and Wildlife Policy and Strategy (1997) aims at improving the management and conservation of forest resources in order to contribute to sustainable national and local development, proper use of the land and conservation of the biological diversity.

Based on the NEMP the Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs (MICOA) drew up a **Programme Support Document** (1996) which identified priority activities and management areas for donor funding.

The **Programme Support Document** was presented to a donor meeting in 1996. Funds to support the implementation of NEMP activities are provided by several donors administered by the UNDP in the form of a **Programme Support Implementation Arrangement (PSIA)** initially drawn up in 1996.

In this rolling programme, it is incumbent upon MICOA to prepare and submit an annual work plan to UNDP indicating the activities to be carried out for each year. For 1999 several activities relevant to the CCD are identified for funding most notably through Objective B3: **"Convention to Combat Drought and Desertification implemented and disseminated"**.

Specifically with regard to the Convention, there are currently several donors interested in supporting CCD activities in Mozambique and a better coordination in order to avoid duplication of efforts is required. Finland, through its Embassy in Mozambique has shown interest in being the lead donor to support CCD activities. The Government of Mozambique also contributes through the State budget for the CCD activities. It also pays salaries for the NCB members at their places of work. In quantitative and qualitative terms this support does not meet the needs required for the efficient implementation of CCD-related activities.

National Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in Mozambique (currently in the final phases of formulation) the overall goal of which is the conservation of biological diversity and the maintenance of the ecological systems and processes taking into account the need for sustainable development and a fair and equitable distribution of the benefits arising from the use of biological diversity.

An additional study being carried out is related to the vulnerability and adaptation of Mozambique to climate change in the context of the UNFCCC. This study is being conducted with assistance from the United States of America and UNDP through GEF.

The overall objective of the NEMP is to address environmental management as an important component of the **five-year governmental programme** towards poverty eradication and promotion of sustainable development. The programme will also address capacity-building issues primarily for the new Ministry of Environment, which has the mandate to coordinate national policies towards sustainable development, and to implement the national objectives formulated in the NEMP.

NAMIBIA

Overview: Namibia is the most arid country south of the Sahel and consequently has a variable climate and frequent low rainfall years. "Disaster droughts" are not unknown. Before independence in 1990, Namibia's landscape was divided into the commercial farmlands, where all efforts to improve farming methods and prevent soil erosion and other forms of degradation were concentrated. The majority of the people lived on communal

farmlands where little attention was paid to farming methods and prevention of land degradation. Although the land tenure situation has not changed dramatically with independence, the focus of government and NGO efforts to combat desertification have shifted to communal farming areas. A variety of approaches and programmes to community based natural resource management focusing on sustainable cropping, animal and rangeland development has been implemented with only mixed success.

Namibia has been directly involved in the combating of desertification since it prepared its Green Plan and participated in the UNCED conference in Rio in 1992. In 1994 it initiated Namibia's Programme to Combat Desertification (Napcod), a programme that involves the Government of the Republic of Namibia, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The following summary provides an overview of Namibia's National Action Process as it applies to desertification specifically and more broadly to sustainable use of natural resources.

Policy: The Directorate of Environmental Affairs of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism has elaborated Namibia's Policy to Combat Desertification (1994), Namibia's Environmental Assessment Policy (1995), and the Draft Environmental Management Act (1999). These latter policies refer to sustainable use of natural resources if they do not refer to desertification per se. Many principles of the CCD are included in these policies and acts.

Other relevant policies have been elaborated by various Ministries dealing with natural resources and applicable to combating desertification, for example:

National Drought Policy and Strategy, 1997 (MAWRD) - formulated and discussed regionally, not yet operational;

National Agricultural Policy, 1995 (MAWRD) - formulated and discussed regionally, partially operational;

Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Policy, 1992 (MAWRD) - fully operational; this policy is given high priority in national development;

White Paper on Energy (MME) - formulated, considered by new projects.

Many policies in Namibia, while formulated and approved by parliament, are not implemented, strategies to support their implementation have not been elaborated and they are not backed by legislation or regulations.

Few if any of the strategies or policies elaborated to date in Namibia specifically mention the CCD although most mention land degradation. A review of environmental legislation in Namibia is ongoing and has produced, inter alia, the draft Environmental Management Act. Various endeavours of the DEA, such as the State of the Environment Reports, have added to this review of policy, legislation and regulations.

Many activities are being undertaken throughout Namibia that contribute to combating desertification. These range from provision of Rural Water Supply in conjunction with implementation of Community-Based Management

programmes to Environmental Education programmes, to Community-Based Natural Resource Management programmes, to Farmers' Unions' activities, to Drought Early-Warning Systems, to eco-tourism developments, to Drought Relief programmes, none of which is incorporated in a formal way into a NAP in Namibia. Many of these activities are, however, represented through members of the NCB.

National Coordination Body and the NAP: The Steering Committee of Namibia's Programme to Combat Desertification (Napcod) - Namibia's National Action Programme - serves as the National Coordination Body (NCB) for Namibia. Four ministries, the university, two farmers' unions and four national level NGOs are involved. The NCB began its task in 1994 when the DEA contracted the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN), an NGO, to implement Phase 1 of Napcod. Phase 1 included broad consultation throughout the country and wide participation in a national workshop in July 1994. Phase II represents a partnership among the MET (DEA), MAWRD and the DRFN. Although many institutions are represented on the NCB, actual participation by most members is limited to attendance at quarterly meetings and will receive attention in Phase 3.

Some components of Phase 3 will be implemented under the guidance of a National Coordinator within the DEA (July 1999) while other components will be put out to tender. In particular, components identified as important in Phase 2, have been given high priority for tendering in Phase 3.

- Establishment of a monitoring system at national and local levels including an overview of the extent of desertification in Namibia;

- Strengthening of Service Providers working with communities; and

- Strengthening of CBOs themselves.

At the Strategic Planning of early 1999 it was decided that a subcommittee of experts from the NCB and other sources will support, monitor and evaluate each component. Some components that were specifically included in objectives during Phase 2 will be regarded as cross-cutting issues in Phase 3, e.g. policy in support of combating desertification, integrated, cross-sectoral planning.

Napcod Process and Phasing Summary	
Phase 1: 1994	Broad consultation and National Workshop
Phase 2: 1995-1999	Setting up structures for implementation of 8 objectives; concluded by planning for Phase 3
Phase 3: 1999-2003	Setting up structures for implementation of 5 revised objectives

Capacity-building: Capacity and institution building, applicable inter alia to problems of desertification, have been promoted by the various partner organizations of the NCB. This has taken place on the national level, particularly within the DRFN supplemented with funding from Napcod, and at the local level through implementation of Objective 6 of the Napcod project and other sustainable environment projects of members of the NCB.
Capacity-building is particularly important for Namibia as the human resources

available are limited, as compared to any of the other countries in the SADC region, because of its small population and its apartheid history when it was governed as a "5th province" of South Africa. Gender awareness is also limited and requires further attention.

As part of an institutional strengthening project of the DRFN, participatory evaluation with several communities was undertaken and provided excellent feedback used by communities working with Napcod and Töb personnel in the area. These results were incorporated into planning for the Töb project, a flanking project of Napcod also funded by GTZ, and its cooperation with Napcod in the field. Evaluation of the NAP process was otherwise limited to one formal evaluation and support mission from GTZ.

Partners and information flow: Napcod works with SADC-ELMS through various workshops and in the establishment of the Multidisciplinary Scientific and Technological Consultative Committee (MSTCC). Obliquely, Napcod is involved in the Gobabeb Training and Research Centre (GTRC), which has been selected by SADC-ELMS as the centre for training, research, appropriate technology and networking on behalf of the CCD in the region. Because of a lack of funding, however, the MSTCC is not yet functioning and the transformation of the GTRC is still in the initial planning stages.

The NCB, through its individual members, promotes information flow among various programmes addressing desertification but not falling directly under Napcod.

The Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Policy has Community-Based Management as one of its basic tenets including ownership and management by communities of their own water supply infrastructure. The amendments to the Nature Conservation Ordinance have allowed for the formation of conservancies implemented under the CBNRM programme. The decentralization policy of GRN, starting to be implemented by the MRLGH, should also contribute to involvement and responsibility by local populations. A number of individual projects, programmes and initiatives have incorporated measures to raise awareness, inform and educate local populations to enhance their participation. Coordination remains a weak point.

Participation and awareness generation: Individual measures have been taken to ensure real participation by local populations and local authorities in decision-making concerning natural resources. This is a major focus of Napcod and the associated Regional Awareness programme. These measures have usually been associated with specific activities, e.g. infrastructure development, conservancy formation and similar focused developments, not under the direct ambit of Napcod. For example, the Minister of MAWRD has recently initiated a catchment level management system for water in Namibia that should lead to participation of regional level decision makers and local inhabitants while many environmental assessments have involved full participation of interested and affected parties. Napcod NCB members are represented on the catchment initiative and the Chairman of the NCB oversees the environmental assessment procedure. All of these initiatives and measures have been undertaken apart from the influence of Napcod per se, however, many were

undertaken with recognition and appreciation of the UNCCD principles, some supported more strongly than others, and can be expected to inform Napcod in the future.

Under Phases 1 and 2, a strategy developed by the DRFN, for communications and public awareness, was adopted by the NCB. Awareness campaigns have been conducted in an ad hoc manner, using the strategy document as a basis, in response to various international days and similar events, in cooperation with a variety of partners. The messages and contents have been related to various identified aspects of desertification, e.g. bush encroachment and ratification of the CCD. Different social and institutional categories have been targeted by various awareness campaigns.

Funding: Under the Urgent Action for Africa programme, the GTZ provided funding for a two-year programme of raising awareness with regional councils in the north of Namibia. Napcod itself has not been decentralized except through the activities of its regional facilitators in Phase 2 and through its participation in FIRM. The Regional Awareness Programme is taking place in Namibia's four most populated regions in the north and is totally decentralized. Local governments have been involved in identifying problems requiring attention and have assisted in the programme itself through identification of training needs and training of community representatives. Regional service providers have also been closely involved in the process.

The German Government through the GTZ has been the main supporter of the Napcod programme through the DEA/MET. The GTZ adviser for desertification sits on the NCB and acts as a full partner in the NCB. During the five years of implementation of Napcod the GTZ has provided about N$ 6 million (approximately US$ 1,000,000). A number of other projects and programmes that support the combating of desertification are funded by donors through the DEA, MET and other government ministries, and through NGOs. Government contributions support staff and infrastructure used by the ministries. NGOs have independent funding in addition to that received through the Napcod programme. Additional funding, to implement key components of its vision, is however lacking.

Benchmarks and indicators: Biophysical and socio-ecological indicators for environmental monitoring were established in three sites with differing land tenure and land use practices although experiencing a similar climate. These were derived together with the community farming with livestock in the area and may prove sustainable. Still required elsewhere in Namibia in other agro-ecological zones are baseline studies of benchmarks and indicators for sustainable development with specific relevance for desertification control. Similarly, impact indicators are required for the Napcod process.

Overall results: The results from the NAP programme are summarized below.

1 - The identification and analysis of the actual and potential key players related to land degradation (those instrumental for the causes and the solutions of the problem) at different levels is an important element in Napcod's strategic approach. Actors (and their respective organizations) instrumental to both the stated problem (desertification) and its solution

(promotion of sustainable and equitable use of natural resources) have been identified at the national level. In particular Napcod's media activities have utilized this information to focus their awareness-raising activities

2 - Raising awareness about desertification, promotion and coordination efforts to combat the causes of this phenomenon, using newsletters, radio programmes, press releases and other media outputs were objectives of Phases 1 and 2. Napcod achieved widespread media coverage and general public exposure to the phenomenon and symptoms of "desertification" in Namibia. Information materials are now available and can be reproduced at relatively low costs. It can be expected that the issue of land degradation will continue to feature implicitly or explicitly in the media.

3 - Development of integrated planning strategies at all levels and introduced on the basis of clearly defined policies was addressed in Napcod 2. Integrated planning is hard to pursue as a separate objective, since it is essentially a strategy for achieving the goals of Napcod, not an output by itself. Although a preliminary report was produced, there was no agreed strategy and/or action plan to be followed during implementation of Phase 2.

4 - The objective defined as appropriate interdisciplinary research programme elaborated and implemented was never fully institutionalized but resulted in a number of studies being completed. Preliminary research results and applied methodologies, particularly for community-based action research, have been successfully documented and presented at various international conferences.

5 - Training and education was one of Napcod's cross cutting strategies, formulated as a separate objective: Appropriate training and education provided according to needs and at all levels. In terms of training, almost 100 students, mainly from Namibia, have gained professional experience through Napcod. Several of them have later been engaged as staff or have been otherwise employed in the environmental "field". In addition, capacities of Napcod staff members have been built, not only through tailor-made training sessions, but also through general participation in the Programme.

6 - Natural resource users and managers empowered to plan and implement sustainable management practices in an integrated and decentralized manner was the major objective of Napcod Phase 2 and for which two pilot areas were established. Some areas of community action have been identified but follow-up will require institutional linkages, which still have to be established. The setting up of a community-based monitoring system of biological indicators seems to have gone a long way at one of the two pilot sites and probably has a good chance of becoming sustainable if activities could be continued. Flow of information has been a problem and resulted in the Steering Committee not at all times being well informed of the activities taking place in each of the outreach areas. On the whole, tangible achievements have been limited.

7 - This objective was meant to address the indirect or underlying causes of land degradation and had the original formulation: Identification and implementation of incentives to change human activities and support sustainable natural resource management. The 1997 Support Mission rightly

concluded that the strategy of influencing the frame conditions in order to positively influence the behaviour of natural resource users represents probably the most tangible and important field of intervention with regard to broad impact on combating desertification. The report on Policy Factors and Desertification provided an important breakthrough in the understanding of one of the important root causes of environmental degradation in Namibia, the policy framework. As a direct spin off can be seen the incorporation of some of the insights into the new Drought Policy and Land Bill. The report also provides useful entry points and support for integrated planning and intersectoral collaboration.

NIGER

1. Priorities established within the framework of sustainable development plans or policies

The various national plans and programmes for sustainable development elaborated in Niger before and after the signature of the Convention have given prominence to policies and strategies for combating desertification and its consequences. The year 1984 is a landmark year, as this was when the great discussion on desertification was held at Maradi. Since gaining its independence, Niger, a Sahelian country, has continued to face major problems of economic and social development connected in large part with the prevailing environmental crisis. It should be recalled that more than two thirds of the national territory are occupied by deserts. In view of this situation, several national plans and strategies for economic, social and environmental development have been elaborated and implemented.

Since combating desertification was identified as a major challenge in the Economic and Social Development Plan (1987-1991), two thirds of State investment in the environmental field have been allocated to combat this scourge and its consequences. In addition, the Economic Recovery Programme elaborated in 1996 and now being implemented includes important projects to control desertification and its effects.

The National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development (NEPSD) was elaborated in parallel with this programme as a genuine national benchmark instrument for policies, guidelines and strategies relating to implementation of the undertakings made by Niger at the Earth Summit, including the three post-Rio Conventions. This document was approved and adopted at a workshop in April 1998 by the representatives of all national actors and cooperation partners. It gives absolute priority to combating desertification in the process of achieving sustainable development in Niger. The National Action Programme on Combating Desertification and Natural Resource Management (NAP/CD-NRM), one of the six NEPSD priority programmes, is being finalized. The participatory approach and partnership constituted the essential bases for the elaboration of these two documents.

Aside from the national plans and strategies mentioned above, other sectoral plans and strategies emphasizing desertification control have been elaborated and/or are being implemented. These include projects and strategies concerning population, poverty control, conservation of biodiversity, energy, basic education, land management, etc.

Lastly, it should be noted that, pending the Rio conclusions, some environmental plans and strategies to combat desertification were elaborated and implemented. These include the Forest Action Plan, the Maradi undertaking, the National Plan to Combat Desertification, National Policy and Strategies to Combat Desertification, the Domestic Energy Strategy, etc.

2. Institutional measures taken for the implementation of the Convention

Created by Prime Ministerial Decree No. 96-004 of 9 January 1996, the National Environmental Council for Sustainable Development (CNEDD) is responsible for coordinating the implementation of Agenda 21, including the United Nations Conventions emanating from Rio de Janeiro. The CNEDD has an Executive Secretariat which has set up several technical commissions to elaborate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of NEPSD priority programmes, including the NAP/CD-NRM. The Council is composed of members of whom one third represent State structures and two thirds civil society. The latter are nominated democratically through their own structures by their peers.

The CNEDD Executive Secretariat, as the National Coordinating Body (NCB), is a public service which is not financially autonomous and operates on the basis of resources allocated by the State and cooperation partners. It is run by a multidisciplinary group of senior national staff from the civil service.

Consultations between the NCB and the groups of actors involved in the process and/or their representatives have thus far been conducted through meetings, training courses and workshops.

At the operational level, the Executive Secretariat has a range, albeit insufficient of equipment and vehicles, and follows an annual work programme adopted by the CNEDD. The evaluation, monitoring and supervision of work undertaken by the NCB are also performed by the CNEDD.

As regards data and information management, the NCB has no databases, but does have a Website and is connected to the Internet. Some data are available in certain local institutions with which it collaborates, but they are scattered and accessible to all since they do not have any legal status. Studies are under way to resolve the question.

Within the framework of coordination and harmonization of activities as part of the process of elaboration of the NEPSD and the NAP-CD/NRM, measures were recommended to strengthen the existing structures, including State structures, NGOs, associations and the private sector.

Lastly, at the legislative and regulatory level, with a view to ensuring greater participation and responsibility of populations in environmental management in general and desertification control in particular, the texts of existing legislation are being revised and new ones drafted to fit the CCD context.

3. Participatory process to support the elaboration and implementation of the action programme

The strategies developed to combat desertification have switched from the enforcement method to the promotion of sectoral and "technicist" strategies responding better to the challenges.

However, it must be noted that not all these strategies have ensured the continuity of actions or the promotion of participation by the public. Nevertheless, the emergence of new actors in civil society as from 1990, and especially NGOs, has greatly contributed to modifying the role of the State and its branches. It was, for example, decided to redistribute the roles of each partner involved in efforts to combat desertification and some new approaches have appeared.

These approaches, based on effective participation and responsibility of grass-roots communities in the design and implementation of measures to combat desertification, were the starting point for all action taken in the context of implementation of the CCD.

It was through this participatory strategy, based on a fruitful and dynamic partnership, that information campaigns were organized throughout the country in the context of the CCD, the elaboration and adoption of the NEPSD and of the NAP-CD/NRM. These campaigns were not based on any national communication or awareness-raising strategy.

The working method used by the CNEDD Executive Secretariat and its national and thematic commissions will ultimately provide for the development and strengthening of the capacities of State services, civil society and populations to conduct the process of elaboration and adoption of the NEPSD and the NAP-CD/NRM in a decentralized, devolved, participatory and responsible manner.

4. Consultative process to support the elaboration and implementation of the national action programme and partnership agreement with developed country parties and other interested entities

The awareness-raising and information meetings held by the CNEDD allowed for a large involvement and good level of participation from the cooperation partners in the process. Their input was ensured, in both physical and financial terms, in the design and elaboration of the NEPSD and the NAP-CD/NRM. Follow-up of this participation by the cooperation partners is assured by the CNEDD Secretariat through its many meetings.

For the time being, Niger does not have any one lead cooperation partner responsible for coordinating and harmonizing the partners' involvement in implementation of the CCD. Nevertheless, UNDP, Niger's major partner in this field, in fact performs the role of informal lead agency.

There is currently no formal framework for consultation and assignment of roles and tasks among countries or cooperation partners working in Niger on implementation of the CCD. However, these actors always consult one another informally before taking specific decisions (notably with regard to funding).

5. **Measures taken or planned within the framework of the national action programmes, in particular to improve the economic climate, conserve natural resources, improve institutional organization, enhance knowledge of the phenomenon of desertification and supervise and evaluate the effects of drought**

Niger is in the process of finalizing its NAP-CD/NRM in the light of the lessons drawn from implementation of all policies and strategies through regional environmental assessments and thematic studies related to the NEPSD and the NAP-CD/NRM conducted in 1997 and 1998, as well as NEPSD objectives and CCD guidelines. Projects such as the PGRN, PGTF, PASP, Energy II Project and Lower Tarka Valley Project are being taken into account in the implementation of the NAP-CD/NRM.

The 11 subprogrammes identified and incorporated in the NAP-CD/NRM project function along three strategic axes determining the priority areas of intervention, namely:

- Natural resources and their mode of exploitation;
- Risks and constraints associated with natural resource management;
- CD-NRM support mechanisms.

On the basis of the foregoing and of the needs expressed by grass-roots communities, urgent pilot actions were devised and adopted. These actions are intended to serve as the basis for a strategy of involvement and mobilization of the cooperation partners in the process of NAP-CD/NRM implementation.

All of these ideas can bear fruit only when actions for strengthening national capacity to combat desertification, including at the local level, are identified. For this reason the NEPSD calls for a relevant programme with three components, namely: institutional support; environmental information, education and communication; environmental follow-up and an environmental information system.

With regard to local capacity-building, where implementation has consistently encountered numerous problems, Niger has opted for decentralization. The adoption of Law No. 96-05 of 6 February 1996 and Law No. 96-06 of 6 February 1996 on decentralization undoubtedly lays solid foundations for local capacity-building and the development of grass-roots partnership, guaranteeing effective participation and responsibility of the populations and the institution of viable and environmentally-friendly systems of production.

The system of partnership instituted between the various actors involved in the process has been respected. Nevertheless, as regards NGOs, there are some shortcomings that need to be corrected.

For the NAP-CD/NRM, the aim is to promote local know-how and provide further momentum, with the strengthening of existing educational and training/information structures.

At regional and subregional level, Niger, as a member of CILSS and ECOWAS, liaison centres for the elaboration of the Sub-Regional Action Programme (SRAP), has incorporated into its NAP-CD/NRM the concerns and goals of the CCD at national, subregional and international level, and more specifically the guidelines of the SRAP.

In addition, it should be noted that Niger has already established such links through the NEPSD and other programmes aimed principally at ensuring food security, energy security, sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation.

On the part of the cooperation partners, moreover, some difficulties leading to delays in the release of funds have been noted. However, taken as a whole, the bilateral and multilateral agreements signed by them with Niger in the context of implementation of the CCD have been respected and are under way or in the process of execution.

6. **Financial resources allocated from the national budget to support the implementation of the convention and financial aid and technical cooperation received or required, with an indication of needs and their order of priority**

To provide local actors with easier access to existing sources of funding, Niger has set up important mechanisms constituted in large part by institutional measures. These include legislative and regulatory instruments instituted by laws and ordinances. In addition to those relating to decentralization, we may note: Ordinance 92-037 of 21 August 1992 on rural markets, legislation on the system of decentralized funding and Law 98/96 of 29 December 1998, which created in its article 15 a National Environment Fund.

Access to resources for local actors is also facilitated by savings and loan or simply loan projects in addition to development measures associated with combating desertification. Some of the above-mentioned measures are ongoing and others are short-term measures.

For the time being, the sources of funding for local actors are: the State, local communities, NGOs and associations, and external partners acting through bilateral and multilateral cooperation arrangements.

With the creation, by Decree No. 93/PM/CNEDD of 5 November 1997, of a technical commission on financing of the National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development, Niger is in the process of defining new forms of financing for desertification control. However, the deliberations of the technical commission have not been completed. The situation will have to be reviewed to determine the modalities for the operation of this fund and the establishment of a structure charged with its administration.

In order to complete the process of elaboration of the NEPSD and NAP-CD/NRM, the State has mobilized resources at national and international level.

More than 1.2 billion CFA francs were mobilized by the State and its cooperation partners. Niger alone mobilized 500 million CFA francs (all projects taken together) or 41.86 per cent of the total amounts committed. This illustrates the full importance it attaches to combating desertification and its consequences.

In the efforts to combat desertification, Niger has benefited from the technical assistance both of African countries and southern countries in the framework of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC), as well as from countries of the North, and also from some specialized regional and international organizations.

7. **Review of benchmarks and indicators used to measure and evaluate progress**

While important observation and follow-up arrangements and desertification information systems exist in Niger under the various regional and international projects and institutions in the country, it has to be noted that access for the various actors to information remains very limited. Furthermore, very few consultation mechanisms exist for the analysis of results. Each structure evolves according to its own interests, without taking account of the presence or needs of the others. The absence of a national desertification information system may explain in part this state of affairs.

Urgent work needs to be undertaken by the NCB, which must make every effort to cater for the various actors: national indicators based on the COP-2 methodology and on current experiences in Niger and a national system ensuring the flow of reliable information.

NIGERIA

Background

Nigeria is located between latitudes 4°N and 14°N and longitudes 2° 2' and 14° 30' East. By virtue of its spatial extent the country encompasses various climatic regimes and physiographical units representing a wide variety of ecological zones such as rainforest Guinea savanna, Sudan savanna and Sahelian vegetation. The Sudan and the Sahelian savanna lie within latitudes 12° N and 14° N. The semi-arid zone, which comprises the Sudano-sahelian region is by its nature and characteristics susceptible to desertification process. This zone is most vulnerable to climatic and human pressures arising from rapidly increasing population and intensive economic activities. The problem of desertification therefore, requires urgent attention, in a holistic manner, so as to ensure that the semi-arid zone continues to support the socio-economy of the area.

Extent and Severity of Desertification

The extent and severity of desertification in Nigeria has not been fully established neither the rate of its progression properly documented. Nevertheless, it is estimated that the country is currently losing about 351,000 hectares of its landmass to desert conditions annually, and such

conditions are estimated to be advancing southwards at the rate of about 0.6km per year. Desertification, which is affecting the 10 northern States is considered as the most pressing environmental problem and accounts for about 73 per cent out of the estimated total cost of about US$ 5.110 billion per annum the country is losing arising from environmental degradation.

Past National Efforts to Combat Desertification

The Sahelian drought of 1972/73 set into motion the establishment of afforestation programmes, the construction of dams for irrigation and the establishment of appropriate national institutions. Such institutions include the River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs), the Forestry Management, Evaluation and Coordinating Unit (FORMECU), and National Coordinating Committee on Desertification Control (NCCDC).

National Policies

Government has taken cognizance of the multi-sectoral problems of desertification. In this regard, it has developed a number of policies and plans ranging from agricultural to energy. Some of the policies relevant to desertification control include the National Policy on the Environment and the National Agricultural Policy.

Plans and Strategies

In addition to these policies, some plans and strategies have been put in place. These strategies and action plans contain elements that address the issue of desertification. Some of these include the Nigerian National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), and the States Environmental Action Plans (SEAPs). The SEAPs were prepared for each of the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory through participatory processes of planning and action, which seeks to integrate socio-economic and ecological perspectives into all the States' policies, plans and programmes as well as those of all stakeholders and interest groups within the State. For those States in the desert-prone region, their SEAP Reports prioritized their environmental problems with desertification ranking as the most important problem.

Others include the National Forestry Action Plan, the National Conservation Strategy, the Natural Resources Conservation Action Plan, the National Water Resources Master Plan, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the Green Agenda of the VISION 2010 Report and the Nigeria's National Agenda 21.

Legal Framework

Prior to the coming into force of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, certain national and State laws and regulations, which relate directly or indirectly to desertification control or related matters have been in force in Nigeria. In many situations, these laws contain provisions that address the causes of desertification such as deforestation, over-exploitation of natural resources, inappropriate agricultural practices, bush burning, etc. Such laws include the Federal Environmental Protection

Agency (FEPA) Decree, the National Parks Decree 101 of 1991, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Decree No. 86 of 1992, the Endangered Species (Control of International Trade and Traffic in Fauna and Flora) Decree, 1985 and the National Water Resources Decree No. 101 of 1993.

At the State level, most of the States in the country have forestry, agricultural and wildlife laws, bush burning and grazing reserve regulations. These categories of laws are directed at controlling the notable causes of desertification earlier enumerated. The most significant of these laws relevant to desertification control are the forestry laws most of which are outdated and require review.

Institutional Framework

Several institutional arrangements have been put in place in the country for management of matters relating to desertification even before the advent of the CCD. Some of the institutions are policy-making bodies while some are actually involved in implementation of deliberate government policies and projects to prevent and mitigate the menace of desertification. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency was set up in 1988 and charged with the responsibilities on environmental protection, biodiversity and natural resources conservation including policy matters relating to desertification control and is in fact the National Focal Point for the CCD in Nigeria. Other institutions relevant to desertification control include the following:

- Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Department of Forestry in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Forestry Management Coordinating Committee (FORMECU) established to coordinate and monitor the implementation of Forestry II Programme
- National Parks Service established to manage all the National Parks in Nigeria
- Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development is responsible, inter alia, for management of water resources generally in the country including River Basin Development Authorities in the Country established to capture, store and distribute water resources for irrigation, fishing and other agricultural purposes
- Centre for Arid Zone Studies/Centres for Energy Research

Bilateral/Multilateral Institutions

Nigeria is involved in a number of bilateral and multilateral relations, which directly or indirectly relate to desertification control. These include the Secretariats of CCD, LCBC, NNJC, AMCEN, CILLS, ECOWAS, the USAID and DFID. Others are the World Bank, ADB, UNDP, IUCN, WWF and RSPB. The Government

has also interacted with a number of civil society organizations such as Nigerian Environmental Study Action Team (NEST), Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), Savannah Watch, Farmers Unions, Women's Associations, etc.

The primary institution that is charged with the responsibility for desertification control at the State level is the Department of Forestry in the State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Other institutions relevant to desertification control include the State Environmental Protection Agencies (SEPAs) charged with the responsibility of protection of the environment and biodiversity conservation. The State Environmental Protection Agencies and the State Ministries of Agriculture and Natural Resources in the 10 States prone to desertification are members of the NCCDC.

Ongoing Measures

There are some ongoing interventions that are geared towards desertification control in Nigeria. These are measures to alleviate poverty, conserve biodiversity, restore degraded lands, and promote desertification awareness activities and environmental education programmes. Other measures include the development of an environmental information system, conducting research and surveys, promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, institutional strengthening and capacity-building measures.

Planned Programmes and Activities

Given the magnitude and extent of desertification in the country, Government future programmes will focus on arresting desertification by protecting desert prone areas, rehabilitating affected areas and institutionalizing drought-ameliorating measures. It is also envisaged that by the year 2010, environment friendly technologies such as solar water heaters, solar stills, solar dryers, photo-voltaic water pumping village solar electrification projects and solar power refrigerators for rural health centres would have been put in place.

Consultative and Participatory Process

In recognition of the need for the involvement of all stakeholders in the preparation of Action Programmes to combating desertification, Government has collaborated with relevant NGOs, CBOs, Organized Private Sector (OPS), and Community leaders, the academic and research institutions, sub-regional and multilateral organizations. In general, collaboration has been with ECOWAS, CILLS, LCBC, the World Bank, UNDP, UK (DFID), the United States Government, NGOs such as IUCN, WWF, RSPB, NEST and NCF, etc.

Sources of Funds

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Natural Resources and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency are the key institutions responsible for the implementation of desertification control in the country. These institutions derive their funding from annual grants in aids through the Federal Ministry of Finance, special grants from the Ecological Fund Office and residual funding assistance either in cash or in kind from bilateral and multilateral organizations. The Ecological Fund is a special fund, made up of 2 per cent

of the annual Federation Account, set aside by the Federal Government for the amelioration of ecological problems including desertification.

The major projects funded from annual budgetary allocations include the Arid Zone Afforestation Project and the National Tree Planting Campaign.

International Assisted Programmes/Projects

The drought of the 1970s and 1980s in the Sahelian zone of the country led to breakdown of biological processes, depleted water supplies, slow growth of trees and loss of livestock and crop production. Government action led to harnessing of Lomé funds to support three programmes in the drought-affected areas. These include the Sokoto Environment Programme, the Sokoto Environment Programme and the Northeast Arid Zone Development Programmes.

Other major multilateral programmes include the World Bank Forestry II Project and The HadejiaBNguru Wetlands Conservation Project.

Review of Benchmarks and Indicators

Nigeria is in the process of establishing benchmarks and indicators for developmental projects including desertification control programmes and projects. The National Planning Commission is responsible for monitoring all projects. However, the Commission collaborates with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency in monitoring environmental projects. Other various Government agencies are also engaged in monitoring of their respective sectors as part of their responsibilities for the country's developmental efforts.

Conclusion

This Report contains a synopsis of the state of desertification in the country, historical trends and past national efforts as well as ongoing and planned measures for combating the fast spreading desert conditions. It also highlighted the inability of Government to provide adequate funds for desertification control and emphasized the need for the review and streamlining of policies and legislation targeted at arresting the spread of desert conditions. The Report finally paid particular attention to the crucial issue of a NAP and the development of indicators and benchmarks for monitoring desertification conditions and progress being made in the execution of programmes of intervention.

RWANDA

I.1 State of the environment in Rwanda

Rwanda is situated in the centre of Africa and has a total land area of 26,338 square kilometres. It is bounded to the north by Uganda, to the east by Tanzania, to the south by Burundi and to the west by the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It has a population of about 7,500,000, mostly rural and agricultural. Rwanda faces critical problems of population pressure, poverty and illiteracy, underlying the environmental degradation observable in

the country, including erosion, increasingly rapid deforestation, declining soil fertility and the disappearance of animal and vegetable species owing to the continued reduction of their natural habitat.

These problems have almost always existed in Rwanda but recently they reached a peak with the war from October 1990 to July 1994, when more than 15,000 hectares of forest were destroyed, 35,000 hectares were damaged, and 80 per cent of cattle and 90 per cent of small ruminants and poultry were killed and consumed, without forgetting the human resources that perished during the war, and especially during the genocide from April to July 1994.

It was after the genocide and massacres of 1994, therefore, that Rwanda included among its priorities actions capable of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development, which in the case of Rwanda necessitates and will first of all involve the rehabilitation of basic infrastructures and restoration of the natural and biological heritage destroyed during the war.

The environmental problems in Rwanda are felt in various sensitive areas, including:

- In agriculture, with low soil fertility caused by overexploitation of the land and erosion;
- In the forest sector, with the gradual reduction in the extent of protected areas having a negative impact on biodiversity;
- The underutilization of other sources of energy and the strong dependence of households on wood and vegetable residues as sources of energy;
- The anarchic exploitation and inadequate management of marshland areas, causing them to dry out;
- The insufficient participatory role of women in environmental protection;
- The weak integration of the environmental dimension into teaching programmes.

I.2 Development strategies

In the socio-economic field Rwanda is sparing no effort to encourage women's participation in the rational management of natural resources.

In the context of desertification control Rwanda is making efforts to integrate the environmental dimension into its policy.

With regard to the protection of natural resources our country has given particular emphasis to the most vulnerable areas by formulating appropriate laws.

We may cite the law on protected areas, the forestry law, the law on water, the real estate law, the law concerning marshland development, the law dealing with physical planning and the law on the environment which is in the course of preparation.

I.3 Participatory process to support the elaboration and implementation of the national action programme

Rwanda undertook desertification control activities before the adoption of the CCD and has been pursuing them ever since, thanks to the strong partnership maintained with local communities, the ministries directly or indirectly concerned with environmental issues and the foreign countries which are financing environmental projects.

In the context of the elaboration of the NAP, Rwanda intends to set up the National Coordinating Body at the earliest possible date.

I.4 Measures taken under the NAP

Measures to address environmental problems date from 1920, which saw the creation of protected areas and the institution of measures to protect land by combating erosion.

Efforts aimed at soil conservation and the reconstitution of damaged ecosystems are being pursued in Rwanda.

Furthermore, the elaboration of the NAP in the context of implementation of the CCD is part of national policy on environmental protection.

Moreover, while efforts in the field of conservation of natural resources have often been directed by the State, new trends are now emerging with the encouragement of the participatory approach.

Despite the constraints in terms of human, material and financial resources, Rwanda intends to begin the elaboration of the NAP as of July 1999.

I.5 Benchmarks and indicators to measure and evaluate progress achieved

In order to ensure the advancement and success of implementation of the CCD, several indices may be taken into account:

- Level of public awareness;
- Degree of conservation of rainwater;
- Degree of overburdening of pastureland;
- Reforested area, etc.

SENEGAL

The adoption by the international community, on 17 June 1994, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) marked a breakthrough in giving effect to the commitments made during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held at Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992.

Senegal is one of the first countries to have signed and ratified the CCD, thereby demonstrating the importance attached by the highest authorities to combating desertification.

A Sahelian country with a semi-arid tropical climate, Senegal has been severely tested since the 1970s by a succession of droughts and by strong pressure on natural resources.

With a growth rate of some 2.7 per cent, the country's population is estimated at 8.8 million, of whom 61 per cent live in rural areas, but with a strong concentration around major urban centres such as Dakar, the capital (density of 3,796 in 1997 as against a national average of 45).

This population growth is not matched by economic growth, which has been strongly impeded by the impairment of natural resources, the productive base of the national economy. Furthermore, the structural adjustment policies instituted since 1978 and the recent devaluation of the CFA franc have not made it possible to remedy in any significant way the precariousness of people's living conditions, both in rural and in urban settings.

It is in this context that Senegal, as part of its obligations as an affected country party to the CCD, has endeavoured over a period of three years to elaborate the principal instrument for implementation of the Convention, namely the National Action Programme (NAP).

The preparation of the NAP has been linked to the elaboration of the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), which for our country provides the overall strategic framework for enabling the environmental dimension to be taken into account in the economic and social development process.

Because of the cross-cutting, cross-sectoral and subregional nature of desertification, a linkage has also been sought with other strategies and plans under way in the socio-economic field (poverty alleviation, health, education and training, agriculture, forestry, livestock raising, energy, hydropower, etc.). Account is also being taken of the lessons drawn from previous experiences in combating desertification at the national level.

In general terms, Senegal now has an institutional and legal framework which has promoted a participatory and decentralized approach in the process of elaboration of the NAP and should guarantee its proper implementation.

Several favourable factors at the institutional and legal level may be singled out in this connection:

- The process of regionalization, which confers on local communities broad powers with regard to the management of natural resources and the environment. Thus, several activities relating to desertification control are now administered by the communes, rural communities and regions;

- The adoption of a new forestry code (Law No. 98-03 of 8 January 1998 and Decree No. 98-164 of 20 February 1998) allowing for decentralized administration of forest resources by local communities on the basis of local management plans approved by the State representative;

- The organization of various categories of non-governmental actors in structured and federal contexts broadly in keeping with the level of administrative decentralization;

- The existence, at all levels of the national territory (regions, departments, districts), of decentralized technical administrative services charged with supporting producers;

- The institution of the Higher Council on Natural Resources and the Environment (CONSERE) (by Decree No. 93-885 of 4 August 1993), as a framework for consultation between the various actors and harmonization of the various sectoral policies relating to management of natural resources and the environment.

CONSERE, acting as NCB, is an interministerial structure with three organs:

- The Interministerial Council, the decision-making body, chaired by the Prime Minister;

- The Standing Committee, the monitoring body, chaired by the Minister for the Environment;

- The Permanent Secretariat, the executive body, with a multidisciplinary team headed by a Coordinator appointed by the Minister of the Environment and Nature Protection.

Through the National Focal Point (NFP) charged with coordinating the implementation of the CCD, it:

- Organizes and directs working groups on central themes and management of natural resources;

- Develops information and consultation for the various socio-economic partners concerned with natural resource management and environmental protection;

- Ensures the consistency of the NAP with other planning exercises and with the SRAP.

The CONSERE Permanent Secretariat has been housed since January 1998 by the Ecological Follow-up Centre (CSE), of which the Director-General was appointed Permanent Secretary, thus enabling the NCB to function and, in particular, to finalize successfully the process of elaboration of the NAP.

With a view to putting into practice the main provisions of the Convention relating to the development of a dynamic partnership between the various actors at all stages of the process, a consultative study group (GCR) representing all categories of actors (State services, training and research structures, NGOs, private sector, associations, producers, women, young persons, media professionals, locally elected officials, etc.) has been put in place.

The creation of this group has enabled the operation of a collective steering mechanism for the preparation of the NAP/CD through consultation, coordination and periodic evaluation during the entire process. This arrangement should permit an equally participatory implementation.

All the work carried out until the present has been made possible through the commitment of all the categories of actors and the support of international partners, notably UNDP-UNSO, USAID, the Netherlands, France, GTZ, CIDA, the CCD secretariat and CILSS. In Senegal, all these partners are represented in the informal group of active stakeholders in the environment, with secretariat services provided by the Netherlands.

This group is intended to enable exchanges of information between the international partners with a view to ensuring the consistency of measures pursued by each of them. Through the extended consultation meetings in the Permanent Secretariat, this group is regularly informed about the advancement of the process and, whenever necessary, has given its views and made suggestions.

During the process, without specific resources being made available for the preparation of the NAP, the State has had to adopt various strategies (CONSERE in the CSE, promotion of consultation, various forms of institutional support) to enable its completion. Likewise, with some development partners during the elaboration phase, the financial resources initially provided for by the NCB could not all be mobilized in time and fully. That has led to some delays with respect to the original timetable.

With the commitments reaffirmed by the stakeholders and the forthcoming adoption of well-adapted funding mechanisms for the NAP, substantial mobilization of the resources required can be expected with participation from the State, non-governmental actors and development partners.

Similarly, a number of measures have now been decided upon with a view to:

- Redynamizing the informal process of consultation between international partners/NCB/other actors;

- Strengthening the capacities of the actors and of the NCB;

- Strengthening the institutional and legal framework;

- Strengthening technical cooperation;

- Setting up as soon as possible a more integrated funding mechanism for desertification control, which will receive financial inputs from various sources (State, local actors, donors);

- Strengthening national capacity and the capacity of the actors with regard to observation and follow-up, information and evaluation of the process of desertification and follow-up/evaluation of the NAP process and of the structural and operational actions taken within the NAP and in the Priority Action Programme (PAP).

At this early NAP implementation phase, some actions are being conducted under the support project for NAP implementation financed by the GTZ.

Within this framework, a programming workshop on NAP implementation was organized in February 1999 and PAP drafting missions were sent in May 1999 to sites identified within six ecogeographical zones. Some partners have already committed themselves to participating in the funding of the PAP in particular and of the NAP in general.

With regard to actions in the field, mention should be made of the following:

- Strengthening of the potential for reforestation, which increased the annual output of plantings from 6-7 million to 12 million with a major contribution from non-governmental actors (nearly 40 per cent);

- Strengthening of environmental education, enabling it to reach 130,000 pupils and become gradually integrated into school curricula;

- Training courses for local officials and collaboration with the regional councils in the context of skills transfers, particularly with the implementation of regional forestry plans;

- Strengthening and development of information, education and awareness-raising activities related to desertification.

At the same time, collaboration with the development partners was reaffirmed in the framework of NAP implementation and this has made it possible to launch some major projects, such as:

- The Senegalese-Mauritanian project on biodiversity conservation in the Senegal valley at a cost of US$ 12 million by the GEF over a period of six years;

- The Diourbel agro-forestry project financed by IFAD at a cost of US$ 12 million over five years;

- The creation of a national forestry seed centre with the support of the Netherlands at an overall cost of nearly 1 billion CFA francs as from January 1999.

SOUTH AFRICA

Since the inception of the Government of National Unity in 1994, numerous new strategies have been developed, of which the two most important ones were the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), a socio-economic framework for rebuilding the nation and the Growth, Employment and Redistribution Policy (GEAR), a strategy for rebuilding and restructuring the economy in keeping with the goals as set out in the RDP. The similarities between the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) and these two documents are evident: democratization of processes, inclusion of the population in all decision-making activities that affect their lives to empower them to be responsible for shaping their lives, and the development of an integrated programme in an economically enabling environment. These will form the cornerstones of the National Action Programme (NAP) which is in the process of being developed and which will serve as the policy for the implementation and monitoring of the CCD.

Many other documents will be taken into consideration when formulating this draft framework policy to combat desertification.

While numerous actions have been ongoing for a number of years to combat land degradation unfortunately not much information on combating land degradation prior to the UNCCD is available. However, recent research undertaken indicated that more than 25 per cent of South Africa's soil is already severely degraded.

As far as the institutional measures taken to implement the Convention are concerned, South Africa established a national coordinating body, the Steering Committee (SC) in 1995. Although not a statutory body, it plays a vital role, advising, giving guidance and overseeing the activities of the NAP process.

The CCD Focal Point for the implementation of the CCD rests with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEAT), headed by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. The NGO Focal Point is the Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG), a Cape Town-based policy and advocacy organization which represents civil society.

Other measures adopted to strengthen the institutional framework include a more representative Reference Group (RG) and various task groups to assist in the NAP process in different ways.

The SC's financial resources are contributed by each department in terms of their budget, manpower and materials. The Department of Agriculture (NDA), the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) as well as the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) have budgets for combating

desertification. The EMG employs two staff members and overheads are covered by GTZ funding. In kind contribution of all the SC members comprises staff hours and office infrastructure.

All SC members have telephones, faxes, e-mail and Internet connections and access to photocopy machines. The DEAT has a Website with a section on desertification. A Website specific to the CCD is being planned.

Other information regarding desertification can be obtained from universities, parastatals such as the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), the National Botanical Institute (NBI) and the Agricultural Research Council (ARC). A Soil and Water Conservation Audit has recently been completed by the CSIR for DWAF. The Potchefstroom University also maintains a database on soil conservation techniques.

South Africa has been approached by the Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS) to set up a Desertification Information System (DIS) in the framework of the CCD. This process is beginning at the end of May 1999.

Measures adopted to adjust or strengthen the institutional framework include a review of the mechanisms available for coordination and harmonization of actions to combat land degradation which will inform the SC where the CCD will be placed within government.

Measures adopted to strengthen existing institutions at the local and national level include the LandCare programme, which will have strong linkages with the NAP programme of the CCD. Community projects at grass-roots level such as this programme enable effective participation at local level in activities identified as part of the NAP.

The existing mechanisms for coordinating and harmonizing desertification control actions include a MinMec Forum at the Department of Agriculture. The ITCA (Interdepartmental Technical Committee on Agriculture) is an existing forum from which a working group on LandCare is functioning. Provincial LandCare forums establish linkages with local people and have been informed on the CCD process and its linkages with LandCare. The DWAF has a MinMec which deals with water issues.

The NAP will be made coherent with other environmental strategic and planning frameworks through research of existing policies and strategies and will form linkages with national, intra-regional and local approaches. Linkages with subregional and regional action programmes will also be effected mainly through cooperation with the Land and Management Sector (ELMS) of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) which often serves as a platform where partners can communicate at the subregional level.

Apart from the screening of existing strategies, plans and policies related to the combating of desertification, an analysis of legislation on environment and related fields will also be conducted. This analysis will include macroeconomic policies, cross-sectoral transversal policies as well as legislation pertaining to the environment, water, agriculture and land to ensure a coherent and functional legal and regulatory framework which will engender the development of natural resource management capacity.

In line with the CCD, a range of consultative processes will ensure participation of local communities. However, consistency in such processes has not been achieved. Decentralization of activities resulting in capacity building and empowerment of local populations are effected through certain NGO and government programmes such as the Community Land Management Programme (Environment and Development Agency (EDA)), LandCare (NDA), Working for Water (DWAF), Integrating Environmental Planning in the Land Reform Process Project (Department of Land Affairs) and Integrated Development Planning (Department of Constitutional Development). However, these efforts are not yet either comprehensive, or widespread in their application.

As far as partnerships are concerned, valuable alliances have been built with many stakeholders in the field of land degradation. Although these partners did not participate in all stages of the process, they were readily available and could be reached by means of electronic communication and other methods.

International partners provided donor funding, backstopper services and technical advice in support of the eventual formulation of the NAP. The following international donor agencies contributed to various actions of the NAP process: Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), Norwegian Government, UNEP/UNSO, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Netherlands Government and the Australian Government.

Informal consultation and harmonization between the partner countries and the SC include the exchange of information, exchange visits, technical cooperation and networking at international, regional and subregional forums, through electronic and other communication means.

Meetings take place at various levels and at different intervals and for different reasons.

South Africa is also one of the members of the Valdivia Group, a group of seven Southern Hemisphere countries (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia) who organized themselves to address various environmental problems. South Africa acts as the desertification coordinator of this group.

Synthesis and evaluation of activities undertaken in the field of combating desertification include a study on Land Degradation in South Africa by Timm Hoffman and Associates. Numerous technical programmes are under way within the NAP process and several pilot projects have also been embarked on by SC members. All these experiences will provide data and learning to be incorporated in the NAP. The decentralization of the NAP process and the inclusion of the CCD principles will commence with a pilot project in the Northern Cape, one of the nine provinces in South Africa.

The NAP process has not yet been concluded. The audit referred to (Land degradation in South Africa) has been finalized and an analysis of other policies is about to commence. Practical measures to combat land degradation are ongoing and the NAP will endeavour to bring all the actions together in one document.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

REVIEW OF REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AFFECTED AFRICAN COUNTRY PARTIES, INCLUDING ON THE PARTICIPATORY PROCESS AND ON EXPERIENCES GAINED AND RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

Addendum

COMPILATION OF SUMMARIES AS PRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY AFRICAN COUNTRY PARTIES 1/

Note by the secretariat

1. The Conference of the Parties, by its decisions 11/COP.1 and 5/COP.2, requested the secretariat to prepare a report based on the information contained in national reports, to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its third session. Only African country Parties are required to present their reports to COP.3.

2. Decision 11/COP.1 provided guidelines and procedures for organizing and presenting the national reports and required in particular a summary of the national reports, not exceeding six pages.

3. This document contains the summaries of national reports submitted by eight African country Parties. The concerned countries are: Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The secretariat will also make this compilation of summaries of national reports available on the Convention's Website (www.unccd.de) for wider circulation.

1/ Reproduced without formal editing by the UNCCD secretariat.

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SUDAN

1. Strategies and policies

Sudan has a wealth of experience in the field of combating desertification. Its history on this issue dates back to the mid-forties of this century. The following points reflect what has been done before the Convention and after it.

Before the Convention:

Establishment of the soil conservation committee in 1944 during the colonial era. One of the main roles of the committee was to care for rational distribution of water points in the rural areas.

Laying out in 1976 of a desert encroachment control and rehabilitation programme.

In 1985 the Government has issued a national action plan for controlling desertification.

In 1992 the Government has issued a 10-year comprehensive strategy (1992 B2002). This strategy has concentrated on sustainable development and conservation of the natural resources.

After the ratification of UNCCD:

What has been achieved during this period can be explained as follows:

In 1996 a National Plan on Environment has been prepared. This document which has been issued in collaboration between the Government and some NGOs has recognized desertification as the main environmental problem in the country.

In 1996 the Government has founded a centre under the umbrella of the University of Khartoum. This centre will deal with desertification and cultivation of desert.

In 1998 the process of NAP has been carried out. At present the focal point with help of the concerned stakeholders is working on the details of the programme.

2. Institutional and legal measures for implementing CCD

2.1 Institutional measures

On its preparatory arrangement for implementing the UNCCD, the NDDU received a technical support from the EC for strengthening its capacity. The support was devoted to training, purchase of two vehicles and GIS unit.

NDDU has a data bank of information collected from the affected States. The data are on vegetative cover, soil, surface and groundwater, distribution of rainfall and human population.

Using available information and applying the GIS, the state of desertification in the affected areas has been classified.

The indicators used were: geomorphology and soils, rainfall distribution, water resources, land use and population distribution. The following table shows the degree of desertification and Table (1) depicts the desertified areas and the degree of desertification:

Table (1): Degree of desertification "Using GIS"

Degree of desertification		Area km	% in relation to total country area
1	Desert	593 366	23.8
2	Very severe	109 599	4.4
3	Severe	72 674	2.4
4	Moderate	82 822	3.3
5	Slight	96 038	3.9
6	Very slight	305 243	12.2
	Total	1 259 743	50

Source: NDDU Files (1997).

Subsequent to the ratification of the Convention, a ministerial resolution authorizing and recognizing the NDDU as the sole focal point and coordinating body for the UNCCD was issued. A steering committee chaired by the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture was then constituted for the unit. The unit's coordinator is a rapporteur to the steering committee.

The committee includes members from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, UNDP, the Ministries of Social Planning, International Cooperation and Investment, External Relations and the High Council for Environment and Natural Resources. Legal measures are now under way for authorizing the already existing desertification control coordinating council. A technical committee has also been constituted for the unit. Its members include representatives from the High Council for Environment and Natural Resources, the NGOs, UNDP and the Desertification and Desert Cultivation Studies Centre (DADCSC). A Coordinator was assigned to the technical committee. His main duties were to make contacts with the States for holding the States and specialized workshops and the National Forum on the specified time according to the schedule.

Within the United Nations Voluntary Action Programme for African Countries, the UNDP assigned a National Volunteer to assist the unit in executing its duties.

A close link and coordination is being maintained in the process of implementing the United Nations Conventions on desertification, climate change and biodiversity. This is manifested by appointment of the national coordinator for climate change, the principal consultant and the information consultant to the project for strengthening the strategic planning in the NDDU technical committee. In the same manner the NDDU is represented in the technical committee for climate change. At the States level three States, Gezira, Northern, and Sennar have taken the initiative and formed their coordinating councils.

In connection with the voluntary work, it is worth mentioning that in 1994 all of the NGOs which are involved with combating desertification and accredited by the UNCCD CoP have united under the term RIOD. RIOD's membership is open to all relevant NGOs and CBOs. They have now reached 12 member organizations. RIOD has a strong contact with the NDDU, the subregional, regional and world organizations. It is the Sudan Focal Point of the world NGOs network which is working for combating desertification. It takes serious initiatives in social animation, awareness and participation in combating desertification. Its work is currently being supervised by a temporary steering committee. Its office is being housed temporarily in the premises of one of its member organizations.

RIOD's work is governed by the Sudan Council on Voluntary Action (SCOVA) and under supervision of the humanitarian aid agency. The organization has formed the Group of Women and Desertification in 1997. The Group has institutional contacts with the women's activities coordinating committee in the Ministry of Social Planning, in addition to its contacts with the World Women Group.

2.2 The legal status

At present the NDDU is institutionally under the land use and desertification control administration which in turn comes under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. There was a trend for upgrading it to a national council with subsidiary branches in the affected States. Recently the National Forum has set forth two recommendations. These recommendations can be illustrated as follows:

- Establishing an organization which will be accountable to the presidency and mandated with all aspects of the environment including desertification.

- Establishing an organization which will be directly responsible to the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and concerned with the control of desertification.

The two options are still being under thorough investigation.

Existing legislative acts pertaining to the use and conservation of natural resources have been applicable since the colonial era. They are periodically reviewed and strengthened. They include among others the Wildlife and National Parks Act 1986 and the Forestry Policy and Law 1989.

Measures are now under way for passing a legislation for protecting the grazing resources.

3. Concept of participation and awareness

Besides the media campaigns and some publications made by NGOs, the government strategy towards awareness raising concentrates on the following:

- Environmental education which will focus on formal education. Efforts are being made to adjust curricula in the primary and secondary stages to include environmental studies. It is known that education is continuous and its impact is more effective. At present environment is an optional subject in the secondary school certificate examinations. Environment has been included in the curricula of Gedaref, Wadi El Nil, Ahfad Universities in the faculties of engineering, economics, education and agriculture via the sustainable development support project.

- Popular awareness campaigns have a direct effect on the concerned population. They present one of the commitments of the desertification control programme. Work in this field needs support in transport facilities, equipment in order to reach the target groups.

The steps taken to carry out the process of the formulation of the National Action Programme can be illustrated as follows:

Step One:

Workshops have been held at the States level. In each affected State 30 persons participated in the workshop, 20 participants represented the rural communities while the remainder came from the Government, NGOs and United Nations projects. Three papers written by people from the States were presented and discussed by the participants. The papers covered the following areas of interest:

- State's previous experience in combating desertification;

- Programme priorities;

- Division of roles among the main concerned stakeholders.

The outcome from the above-mentioned exercise can be explained as follows:

- Consensus on the programme priorities;

- Strengthening the principle of partnership among the concerned stakeholders.

Step Two:

At this level, special workshops were held in Khartoum to discuss some issues related to planning and decision-making. The number of participants ranged between 50 and 80 persons. The participants came from different backgrounds such as management and decision-making, research institutes, universities, NGOs and pastoralists trade union. The papers were prepared by experts from the Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry, Social Planning, Environment and Tourism and the Universities of Khartoum and Sudan for Science and Technology, Agricultural Research Corporation and some independent experts. Nine papers were presented and covered the following topics:

- Funding mechanism;
- Role of national NGOs in combating desertification;
- The Government institutional framework and its compatibility to the work of NGOs and CBOs;
- Assessment and review of the role of research institutes that deal with drought and desertification;
- Constraints in adoption of research findings in the field of combating desertification;
- Introduction of participation and partnership approaches in combating desertification;
- Education and communication and their role in combating desertification;
- Strategic planning for sustainable development; and
- Monitoring and evaluation.

These workshops concentrated on:

- The establishment of the national desertification fund;
- The use of the scientific approach in dealing with drought and desertification; and
- Strengthening of trust and coordination among all the concerned stakeholders.

Step Three:

Under the auspices of H.E. the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, the National Forum was held in Khartoum. A total of 126 persons participated in the Forum: 74 participants represented the affected States and the other 52 participants represented a variety of institutions at the federal level. Five papers were introduced and they focused on:

- The funding mechanism;
- Capacity-building and human development;
- Traditional knowledge;
- Programme priorities and coordination;
- Monitoring and evaluation.

It is quite evident that the National Forum has been the end point in the planning process for the preparation of the National Action Programme. This process is regarded as the sole activity that reflects what has been done on the implementation of UNCCD.

4. Consultation and world community support

Sudan cooperation with the international community in combating desertification has been going on for a long time. This cooperation has continued and is continuing now. It enabled the NDDU to execute the State's workshops and the National Forum for formulation of the NAP.

In addition to the local government contribution to satisfy the running cost and staff salaries, the unit, in 1997 received support from UNDP for preparation of a national plan to assist in the formulation of the National Action Programme. Later in 1997 additional support was received from the United Nations Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO) for carrying out the process of the National Action Programme.

Table (2) illustrates items of expenditure

Source	Amount	Items of expenditure	Remarks
UNDP	$60 000	Project document for preparation of NAP	
UNSO	$160 000	State's workshops, specialized workshops and National Forum	$30 000 for capacity-building of NGOs and $10 000 for support of research institutes.

Source: NDDU Files (1998).

5. Measures adopted for activating the implementation of desertification control programmes

Previous measures have not been studied and scrutinized precisely. State-wise a limited number of trials in desertification control has been studied but not all factors leading to desertification have been analysed. The ongoing projects have not been evaluated yet. This is attributed to the absence of a lack of financial resources.

Within the context of the Convention, research institutes have not been engaged in the process at this stage except for some consultancy work. Furthermore, local people did not take part in natural resource management except for trials in social forests.

Sudan has founded from its own resources an academic centre for desertification and desert cultivation studies. This centre lies under the umbrella of Khartoum University.

At present, the States governments have put forward one-year pilot project proposals. It is anticipated that financing will be provided jointly by the local community, the States governments and an international donor.

6. Government financial support

The Government continued to supervise, support and endeavour to implement the UNCCD. Both the political and executive leaderships who participated in the National Forum committed themselves to support the national programme to combat desertification. There are still some projects in reforestation, improvement and development of pasture which lack funding and need the Government's helping hand.

On the States level, governments of States contributed to expenses incurred in the States' workshop and National Forum. The contribution covered cost of travel and accommodation of participants, facilitators and discussants.

With regard to the support for implementing the National Action Programme, this is pending establishment of the financial mechanism "National Desertification Fund". Guidelines for establishing the mechanism will be made through consultation of the Government with UNDP and UNSO. However, some of the financial support priorities are envisaged as follows:

- Training in the various fields of natural resources;
- Provision of transportation and communication means in all of the affected States;
- Support for scientific and research institutes;
- Support for national NGOs.

7. Benchmarks and indicators

Based on all activities, consultations and recommendations that have come out of the seminars and workshops, a consensus has been reached on the nature of priority projects in each State. The presence of an early warning system with the relief and humanitarian agency has helped in monitoring environmental anomalies.

Presently methods for monitoring all aspects of the environmental changes are lacking. The only available information which is obtained on an annual basis is on meteorology, forestry, range and pasture and wildlife. Its

availability for evaluation of the expected changes depends on the annual surveys which are usually untimely and have no sustainability. Use can be made of the available information by applying GIS.

In the context of applying research findings for combating desertification and sustaining development, a technological package for soil reclamation and breeding of drought-resistant crops has been developed. A similar package in alternative energy is now being introduced. However, most of these findings are in need of the necessary support for sustainability.

Indigenous knowledge for combating desertification and coping with drought furnishes an additional early warning method. However, the main constraint is the inaccessibility and lack of communication for gathering the information in time.

The degree of desertification in each State has already been interpreted through the use of GIS. However, field checking for verifying and updating the information remains as a cornerstone.

With regard to the States experience from projects executed for combating desertification, it has also been suggested that the stakeholders, i.e. the rural people, are to participate in the process of monitoring and evaluation.

SWAZILAND

The Kingdom of Swaziland is seriously affected by land degradation and drought. A number of policies, strategies and programmes were adopted and implemented by the Government and its partners after realizing the problem, but most of them were not able to address the problems adequately. These earlier strategies and programmes included the establishment of a Central Rural Development Board to oversee and coordinate the implementation of conservation measures in rural areas, the implementation of the fattening and sisa ranch programmes to reduce overgrazing in rural areas, the rural development area programme which aimed at improving the standard of living in rural areas through the provision of improved infrastructure and promoting commercial farming. Most of these programmes were not successful due to their inability to address the root causes of the problems. These programmes also lacked the involvement of the local communities, which were being affected. Others could not be sustained because they were expensive to the Government, especially the rural development area programme. It is because of the continuation of the problem of land degradation and drought and failure of earlier interventions and efforts that Government decided to sign and ratify the UNCCD in 1996 and 1997 respectively.

1. Policies and strategies

Policies and strategies have continuously been formulated for the realization of economic development and sustainable utilization of resources. These policies and strategies have taken the land resource as a base for development and thus its sustainable utilization and conservation is at the forefront. There are those strategies which are very broad and they include: the National Development Strategy which is a 25-year vision on economic and

social development, the Swaziland Environment Action Plan which is an overall national strategy for environmental management and is supported by the Environment Management Bill together with the National Environment Policy, the Economic and Social Reform Agenda which is a programme responsible for closer supervision of those national programmes that are a priority to Government.

The initiatives and strategies, which are sectoral but address desertification and/or drought mitigation issues include those that are already adopted and are operational and also those which are at the planning or formulation stage. Those that have been adopted by Government are: Sustainable Livelihood Programme, Poverty Alleviation Programme, National Early Warning Unit, Water Conservation Programme, Climate Change Project and the Livestock Development Policy. Those which are at the formulation stage include the National Disaster Management Policy, Population Policy, Land Policy, the EIA Regulations and Procedures and the Bio-Diversity Action Plan and Strategy.

Non-governmental organizations have long been involved in the support of community projects on land management and community development. They have worked with government departments in the implementation of the above programmes or on parallel programmes that complement government efforts on sustainable land management and conservation. Their role has always been recognized and welcomed by Government and they have been taken as partners in development.

2. Institutional coordination

For institutional coordination and management, it is the Swaziland Environment Authority which has the overall responsibility of coordinating environment-related policies, programmes and activities. The authority has established a National Steering Committee to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the UNCCD and other related activities. This is a multi-disciplinary body comprised of representatives from both government departments and civil society organizations including the private sector. Representation in the Steering Committee depends on the relevance of the institution or organization to combating land degradation and/or drought mitigation. Each organization was requested to nominate its representative to the Committee. The Steering Committee works based on Terms of References which were approved by the SEA. Each year the Committee prepares a plan of action and meets on a monthly basis to direct the implementing institution on what is to be done and how. It also monitors progress and oversees the overall implementation of the plan of work. The Steering Committee is served by a secretariat which is also the focal unit on the Convention and is housed in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The Land Use Planning Section where the focal unit is located is responsible for coordinating implementation and making sure that decisions or recommendations of the Committee are implemented by the responsible organization.

Activities of the Committee are also supported by other bodies which have been created to facilitate the implementation of the Convention. These include: the NGO Focal Point on UNCCD, an NGO special task force on the implementation of the Convention by the NGO community, the Coordinator of

the SEAP and Regional Environment Committees which are responsible for coordinating all environmental activities at regional level.

The work and programme of the NSCD is supervised, monitored and evaluated by the SEA. The SEAP Coordinator assists the SEA with the coordination and evaluation of programmes of the different committees under the SEA including that of the NSCD. In addition, the different committees are mandated to submit quarterly reports to the SEA for evaluation purposes. There is also a coordinating committee made up of all chairpersons of the different SEAP committees where they meet and make sure that their different activities are coordinated and that there is synergy in the work of the different committees.

3. Activities undertaken by the Steering Committee

Since its formation, the NSCD has been able to undertake a number of activities and they include:

- The documentation of indigenous knowledge systems being practised in the country has been started and is a continuing process;

- A review of past experiences and activities, policies and strategies relevant to the combating of land degradation. This was done in preparation of the NAP process;

- Preparation of an information kit on UNCCD relevant to the country and was used during the awareness campaigns;

- Awareness raising and education on the UNCCD and the NAP process.

4. The NAP process

The NAP process started with awareness raising through national workshops, regional workshops, seminars, and meetings. The media was also used in the process, mostly the national radio station which has a wider coverage and is cheaper. Awareness has also concentrated at the local level where meetings and workshops were organized. The celebration of the WDCD has always concentrated on awareness raising and capacity-building of local communities. In addition to the broad approaches, special awareness raising programmes were also carried out targeting special groupings like the donor community, academic institutions, the private sector and women and youth. There is also a programme which is being implemented whose objective is to enhance participation of local communities in the NAP process including on decision-making. This is done through catalytic support to their initiated programmes and through projects and training workshops. This programme is supported by both government and NGO officers at the field level.

A time came when a majority of participating organizations had benefited from the awareness-raising programmes. It was then decided that the NAP consultation process should be started. Communities were trained on the process through a series of workshops. They were requested to contribute ideas towards the NAP. This was followed by regional workshops and finally a

First National Forum on the UNCCD which was held on 10-12 September 1997. The forum prioritized the programme areas that should be articulated on the NAP.

The NAP is composed of 14 programme areas of which 9 are ongoing programmes. The 4 new programme areas are:

- addressing Chieftaincy disputes;
- awareness-raising and capacity-building;
- promoting active participation by local communities;
- research and technology development.

The different programmes, especially the new ones will be implemented through the preparation of detailed project documents in each programme area and soliciting funds from government, the private sector and external partners for their implementation. A number of proposals have already been prepared and funds are being sourced for their implementation.

The National Action Programme document has been articulated by the steering committee with the help of national and international consultants. It is currently with Cabinet for its approval and adoption as a national policy document. It is hoped that this process will be through before the first half of 1999.

5. Financing of the NAP Process

For the sustainable financing of the NAP and access to funds by local level actors, a National Environment Fund is being established. A draft document is already with the Attorney General Chambers where a bill is being prepared for submission to Parliament. The Government has already committed a sum of US$ 1 million for the initial functioning of the fund once passed by parliament. A donor conference was held on the fund establishment.

All efforts of fund mobilization in the country are the responsibility of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development. This ministry is the one which knows all the potential donors of the country and their areas of interest. A comprehensive mechanism for fund mobilization will be put in place after the official adoption of the NAP by Government.

Contributions to the NAP process by external partners can be divided into two. There are those partners who have contributed directly to the NAP process while others have contributed by funding the implementation of certain elements of the NAP without necessarily referring to the NAP or UNCCD.

Partners who have contributed directly to the NAP process are, the UNCCD Secretariat, the Government of Denmark, UNDP/UNSO and the Australian International Development Corporation.

Partners who have funded projects indirectly include, the European Union, Japanese International Corporation Agency, the Republic of China, DANCED, IFAD, ADB, DFID.

Other special financial contributions included the financing by the UNCCD Secretariat Focal Point to attend meetings of the INCD, COP and regional consultative meetings. SADC-ELMS has funded national participants to subregional workshops and meetings.

Beside financial contributions, external partners have contributed to the NAP process through technical backstopping. A number of consultants were made available to the steering committee during the process. In addition, missions to the country by international organizations were undertaken and they highly contributed to the process.

6. Financial Requirements

Though the awareness and education processes are continuous, it is time that some activities are implemented on the ground. A sum of US$ 200,000 is urgently required to continue with the programme of support to local community projects. A large number of requests have been submitted to the Steering Committee following support of projects with funds which remained from a Memorandum of Understanding in support of the NAP process.

There is also an urgent need to capitalize the National Environment Fund which is hopefully going to be in place before the end of 1999. The estimates have been that a sum of US$ 4 million would be the basic requirement to capitalize the fund. This money will be invested and interest used in the implementation of NAP programmes.

Other resources will be for the implementation of project proposals on capacity building and awareness raising, research and technology development and support of projects on alternative livelihood for communities affected by drought.

7. Benchmarks and Indicators

Mechanisms for observation and monitoring the environment or the impact of environmental programmes in the country have been developed but awaiting their adoption. These include the state of environment reporting and the use of information from the Central Statistics Office where measures are made on the changes over time.

For the monitoring of progress and effectiveness of the NAP programme, benchmarks and indicators adopted by SADC member States were used.

TANZANIA

Land degradation in Tanzania began to be noticed from the late 1920s. In certain parts of the country land degradation has significantly reduced the economic productivity of land to the extent of producing desert-like conditions. This alarming situation called for the launching of various initiatives in an attempt to combat the situation. Ironically, despite such initiatives land degradation has perpetually continued to escalate. Cognizant of the dangers which these conditions pose, Tanzania resolved to join hands with the international community by signing and ratifying the UNCCD in 1994 and 1997 respectively.

Previous Initiatives

Programmes and strategies for combating the effects of land degradation date back to those which were implemented before independence. Initiatives continued even after independence.

Pre-independence initiatives included:

- The establishment of a Soil Erosion Committee in 1929 to undertake a soil erosion control programme;
- The Sukumaland resettlement scheme (1944-1958);
- The destocking and resettlement schemes in Mbulu and Masailand (1945-1960).

Post independence strategies have included:

(a) Soil conservation programmes implemented in Dodoma and Singida regions;

(b) The afforestation campaigns and village afforestation programmes;

(c) The arid zone afforestation project;

(d) The establishment of the soil service unit in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives;

(e) Crop monitoring and early-warning systems;

(f) Rural electrification programme; and

(g) The Ujamaa village programme.

Most of these programmes have collapsed because of a number of reasons including lack of funds, lack of involvement of local communities in their planning and implementation, lack of the use and appreciation of indigenous techniques and knowledge. The programmes were also implemented on sectoral basis with very little coordination and they lacked a comprehensive approach to the problem.

Currently there are a number of planned and ongoing national programmes and sectoral initiatives which will contribute to combating land degradation and drought mitigation. Most of these strategies and programmes have come about after Tanzania decided to participate in global efforts to combat land degradation. These include: the National Environment Action Plan, National Action Programme on Climate Change (under formulation) and the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (under formulation). In addition to these programmes, a number of policies have been put in place or are being formulated to support the implementation of environmental rehabilitation programmes. These include policies on environment, water, energy, mining, land, forestry, industry, transport, wildlife, tourism and agriculture.

INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION

A National Coordinating Body (NCB) has been set up in the Vice President's Office. The Office of the Vice President is the authoritative institution on policies and activities on the environment on behalf of the entire Government. This office established a number of organs in May 1997 to facilitate the implementation of the Convention. These are:

- The National Steering Committee which is comprised of Directors and Commissioners of relevant government departments. UNDP and Tango (an umbrella NGO for environmental NGOs) are also represented in this Committee. The Committee provides policy guidance on the implementation of the UNCCD;

- The National Technical Committee. This is a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary committee drawing members from different government departments, public institutions, NGOs and the private sector. It provides technical guidance on the NAP process;

- The National Secretariat on NAP. This is made up of a team of six members. It is responsible for offering technical inputs and closely facilitates the NAP process;

- The National Focal Point. It is housed by the Vice President's Office in the Division of Environment. A National Coordinator was designated and assigned the responsibilities of coordinating and leading the NAP Secretariat and the Technical Committee.

Efforts by the NGO community within the NAP process are coordinated by an NGO Focal Point which was chosen in their meeting on the UNCCD. An NGO Coordinating Committee to combat desertification has been established to facilitate the implementation of the Convention and network with subregional, regional and international NGOs active in the context of the Convention.

Members of the National Coordinating Bodies are nominated by their respective institutions based on their education level, expertise and experience in the fields of socio-economic and natural resource management. These institutions are those identified by the Department of Environment as being important partners in combating land degradation. Twenty-three of the thirty-four members (68 per cent) of the coordinating body are government officials and 11 (32 per cent) are from NGOs, the private sector and public institutions. The composition of women is 10 per cent.

The Technical Committee and the National Secretariat provide the driving forces in the implementation of the Convention. The Technical Committee meets once every 2-3 months to set direction on what is to be done. The National Secretariat meets more regularly to support the National Focal Point in implementing the decisions taken by the Technical Committee. The National Focal Point is responsible for the day-to-day supervision of implementing agencies. Each of these committees has its own Terms of References which are the basis for preparing annual plans and timetable for the committee's operations. The NCB does not have a budget of its own but has access to funds allocated to the Division of Environment. The implementation of activities is

through funds made available by UNDP/UNSO for the implementation of the NAP process. The work and activities of the committees are supervised and directed by the National Steering Committee, which is basically a policy guiding body.

Activities Undertaken by the National Coordinating Body

From the time the National Technical Committee and the National Secretariat on the NAP were established, a number of activities have taken place in the NAP process under their guidance and leadership. These activities have included:

- Awareness campaigns and consultations with NGOs and communities at local level;
- Review of past experiences and ongoing projects and programmes;
- Review of existing legislation and policies;
- Review of mechanisms available for coordination and harmonization of actions to combat desertification at national and local level;
- Implementation of catalytic support programme at community level;
- Interpretation of UNCCD documents into the national language;
- The establishment of a National Environment Fund - Desertification (NEF-D).

The National Action Programme Process

To initiate the implementation of the NAP process, two workshops were organized. One workshop involved members of the Technical Committee and the second workshop was held for members of the Technical Committee and the Task Force on the establishment of the NEF-D. During these workshops, four teams of local experts were formed from the participants. The main task of these teams was to make field visits to those areas which are prone to desertification with the objective of sensitizing communities and stakeholders providing them with information on their opportunities and their roles in the implementation of the UNCCD, and finally discuss and gather relevant data to facilitate the NAP process.

In total 13 out of 20 regions of mainland Tanzania were visited; these are Mwanza, Shinyanga, Mara, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tabora, Singida, Dodoma, Mbeya, Iringa, Morogoro, Mtwara and Lindi. In these regions 18 out of 69 districts were visited.

Zonal consultative workshops in respect of the development of a National Action Programme to Combat Desertification in Tanzania were also organized. The workshops were held in Mwanza for the lake zone, Dodoma for the central zone and Iringa for the southern zone. Participants who attended these workshops included representatives of local governments, functional managers

responsible for sectors related to land use at district and regional levels. NGOs and CBOs participated in their own national forum, from which an NGO UNCCD Coordinating Committee was established.

The mechanism used for communicating information to stakeholders include:

- Meetings, seminars and workshops;
- Distribution of reports and minutes of meetings to relevant target groups;
- Use of telephone, fax and e-mail;
- Making use of available information centres at collaborating institutions and organizations;
- Distribution of UNCCD materials translated into the local (national) language.

The National Coordinating Body is currently working on the possibilities of establishing its own information centre which will network with existing centres.

The participation of international partners in the NAP process has also been encouraged. All international partners represented in the country have been invited to national fora organized under the UNCCD. These included the forum on the establishment of the National Environment Fund, the First National Forum on NAP and the NGO and CBO forum.

Most of the partners who were invited were able to attend the fora and were represented by their technical officers. Some Ambassadors and Heads of Missions participated in the opening and/or closing sessions.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a member of the National Steering Committee and the National Secretariat.

The presence of UNDP in these committees has provided a link between the national committees and the donor community and international partners. UNDP has been requested to continuously brief the donor community on progress of the NAP process during the donor monthly meetings. The Government has taken advantage of these meetings and has used them to brief donors on progress achieved and report on the financial requirements of the process.

Several partners have also been approached on a bilateral basis to solicit their involvement in the NAP process especially in preparation for the post forum activities. Some of the partners approached have expressed interest in supporting the implementation of the National Action Programme, but their commitment is yet to be seen. Partners approached include: IFAD, DANIDA, SIDA, UNDP, USAID, NORAD, etc.

In preparation for the elaboration of the NAP document, national and international consultants were engaged to review experiences from past and

ongoing programmes. Their reports and recommendations together with reports from the consultation process have been used in the preparation of the NAP document. A number of ongoing projects have been included in the NAP as they were found to be effective and are within the spirit of the Convention.

The NAP process has come up with new programmes for combating desertification and drought mitigation. These new programmes are:

- The streamlining of cross sectoral policies for the empowerment of local communities to conserve and manage their own resources;
- Education, awareness-raising and capacity-building programme for all stakeholders;
- Acquisition and dissemination of technology including indigenous knowledge;
- Programme for curbing population growth;
- Gender mainstreaming for the implementation of CCD programmes;
- Environmental information system.

It must be noted that the NAP is at the preparatory stage and has not yet been officially adopted by the Government. The first National Forum on the NAP will be held in July 1999.

Financial and Technical Support to the NAP Process

The Government of Tanzania has contributed to the NAP process as well as other UNCCD related activities through the provision of manpower for the process, provision of office space, facilities and utilities, transport and the exemptions from tax to all material and equipment from abroad for the UNCCD activities.

The Tanzanian Government has received financial support through UNDP/UNSO from the Danish Government of US$ 350,000 in 1997 for initiating the NAP process. An additional amount of US$ 30,000 was also provided by Denmark to the Government of Tanzania to catalyze the establishment of a National Environment Fund - Desertification. A forum on the fund took place in May 1998. A sum of US$ 200,000 was provided by UNDP/UNSO to implement a pilot project on "Farmer innovations on soil and water conservation" in the drylands of Tanzania. The Australian Government through UNDP/UNSO has provided US$ 10,000 for catalytic support of local level initiatives. Other support has come from the UNCCD Secretariat and SADC-ELMS by funding participants to international conferences and workshops.

On technical cooperation Tanzania has benefited from experts and inputs from UNDP/UNSO, SADC-ELMS, UNCCD Secretariat and the Australian Government.

A special support programme has been the availability of a National UNV to support the efforts and initiatives of the National Focal Point and Coordinating Body.

Financial and Technical Cooperation Requirements

A project proposal has been prepared and forwarded to some donors for supporting the implementation of NAP activities. A sum of US$ 230,000 is urgently required to sustain the process.

A sum of US$ 30 million has been identified as the basic requirement to operationalize the National Environment Fund - Desertification.

For technical cooperation, support would shortly be required in the form of international consultants to initiate the implementation of some of the priority NAP programmes.

In addition the UNV programme has been very helpful and would be highly appreciated if it could continue and where possible provide more than one expert to enhance manpower support to the part-time focal point.

TOGO

Togo has an area of 56,785 km². Climatically, the country is divided into two zones: sub-equatorial in the south and Sudanian in the north. Agriculture is the main economic activity. It accounted for 36 per cent of GDP in 1996 and almost 75 per cent of the active population are engaged in it.

Regarding natural resources, Togo has considerable potential, thanks to the density of its flora and fauna, its ecosystems, the extensive areas of cropland (64 per cent of the country) and the abundance of surface water.

However, growing pressure on the natural resources, mainly because of poverty, ignorance and the state of the economy, is leading to their unsound management. The consequences include soil nutrient depletion, declining harvests, disruption of the normal precipitation and water cycles, and prolonged drought.

It is against this background that Togo signed the Desertification Convention in October 1994 and ratified it in October 1995.

This report describes the progress made in implementing the Convention, implementation that is effected within the framework of the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP).

I. STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES FOR COMBATING DESERTIFICATION LAID DOWN IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND/OR POLICY

The development policies and strategies adopted in the aftermath of independence aimed at meeting food needs by intensifying agriculture through the strengthening of agricultural support structures and the conservation of forest resources. The boosting of agricultural output was undertaken without accompanying systematic measures to conserve and restore natural resources. Traditional farming practices were continued, with, as a result, overuse of land and forests, laying the country open to substantial environmental degradation and the risk of desertification.

From the beginning of the 1980s, sectoral strategies in agriculture, fishing, forestry, livestock farming, water and energy resources were oriented towards the promotion of environmentally sound technologies and awareness-, responsibility- and capacity-building among local populations by means of a participatory approach.

On 23 December 1998 the Government adopted a National Environmental Policy which addresses the main issues of relevance to the combating of desertification. It is built around: (i) incorporation of environmental concerns in the national development plan; (ii) elimination or reduction of the adverse environmental impacts of public and private development; and (iii) improvement of people's living conditions and of the quality of life.

The sectoral objectives are underpinned by cross-cutting strategies aimed at: (i) utilizing and strengthening the country's legal, institutional and human capacity for sound environmental management; (ii) intensifying environment-related information, education, communication and training activities; and (iii) combating poverty and controlling population growth.

The policy provides for the State to become increasingly active in: (i) improving the legislative and regulatory framework for environmental management; (ii) promoting a partnership framework within which ordinary people will be able to share in, and feel responsible for managing the environment; (iii) coordinating the actions of the various players; and (iv) supporting private players, NGOs and local communities by encouraging decentralized cooperation.

The sectoral strategies now take into account the general orientations and strategies of environmental policy. They address mainly: (i) strengthening of national environmental-management capacity through the promotion of a partnership framework conducive to participatory management of the environment; (ii) the promotion of national environmental awareness through the acquisition of knowledge and the development of environmentally positive attitudes; (iii) the promotion of environmental research and technology acquisition; (iv) the incorporation of environmental concerns in development planning and management and in efforts to achieve sustainable use of natural resources; (v) improved coordination of all activities aimed at protecting and conserving the environment; (vi) decentralization of environmental management, with genuine involvement of grassroots communities and their elected representatives.

II. INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (NAP)

Drawing-up of the NAP is in progress within the wider planning framework of the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP). The NEAP Coordination Task Force was established by Order No. 0002/MERF of 13 March 1997 and is the National Coordinating Body for the NAP. The Task Force is supported by the CCD focal point and works together with the main categories of players and the Natural Resources and Energy Subcommittee of the National Committee for the Environment.

The Task Force, which reports to the Environment Ministry, is financially autonomous. Its principal tasks are to: (i) coordinate activities, with the effective participation of all those involved in development, especially grassroots communities, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and all the various public and private partners; (ii) promote and secure overall consistency between the NEAP and the sectoral policies and strategies for natural-resource and environmental management.

Its function during the elaboration of the NAP consists mainly in facilitating and stimulating participation by all the actors. To this end, the Task Force: (i) promotes the dissemination among the actors of information on the Convention; (ii) prepares and proposes a programme of action for the elaboration of the PAN; (iii) seeks the resources needed for the execution of the programme of activities; (iv) reminds the various categories of actor of the importance of their active participation in the process and assists them in preparing their contributions to meetings of the National Forum; (v) prepares and monitors studies and research by working groups; (vi) coordinates the process of preparing the NAP.

The coordinating body comprises three senior staff (a biologist, a lawyer and a manager) and seven assistants. For particular operations it is supported by resource persons from the public and private sectors and by consultants. Regarding gender distribution, the coordinating body comprises three women and seven men.

Its material resources comprise equipment acquired within the overall framework of the NEAP: (i) vehicles (a short-wheelbase Land Cruiser and a Yamaha Mate 50 motorcycle); (ii) data-processing and office equipment (five microcomputers, an Internet connection, a typewriter, three printers, a photocopier and a facsimile machine); (iii) other equipment and infrastructure (a generator, four offices, a meeting room, a garage and a typing pool).

In addition to the NAP coordinating body, there is an advisory body made up from the various categories of actors from the public and private sectors and NGOs. This latter group's function is to monitor and evaluate the NAP process.

III. PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION IN CONNECTION WITH ELABORATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAP

Elaboration of the NAP forms part of the NEAP process and is based on the same principles: a participatory approach and decentralization. The participatory process is, in turn, based on local consultations by region, consultations by category of actor and the holding of forums.

Decentralized consultations have been held at the cantonal, prefectoral and regional levels for the purposes of assessing environmental problems and identifying strategic options and priorities regarding the environment and desertification control. The results have been used in drawing up Regional Environmental Action Plans.

The participants in these regional consultations have included representatives of all categories of society: young people, women, teachers,

clerics, members of development committees and production groups, and staff from government departments and local authorities. These consultations will be supplemented by consultations relating specifically to the NAP process with the various categories of actors (private persons, communicators, government departments, NGOs, research and training institutions, local authorities and grassroots communities) in order to identify their particular concerns regarding desertification control.

As the final step, two forums will be held. The first will analyse the results obtained through the regional consultations and consultations by category of actor. The second will be devoted to ratification and analysis of the NAP document.

The consultative process has been based on informal meetings and consultations held by the NAP Task Force with the various partners with the aim of harmonizing action within the NEAP/NAP process.

IV. MEASURES TAKEN OR ENVISAGED UNDER NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

In the past, desertification control was hampered by the failure to take concerns about natural-resource conservation into account in policies and strategies.

Since the adoption of the National Environmental Policy, most programmes take environmental concerns in general, and concerns about desertification in particular, as their starting point.

Action will aim at strengthening management capacities and developing social sectors and will include the fight against poverty. To reduce pressure on wood supplies, in May 1999 the price of domestic gas was lowered from CFAF 8,500 to CFAF 5,000.

A National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) has been established. It fixes all the components of a Plan of Action for Environmental Management for the next 15 years (1999-2014). The NEAP document provides for the strengthening of the institutional and legal framework for environmental management, the creation of an information system and environmental monitoring.

The inclusion of preparation of the NAP in the NEAP process is reflected in the elaboration of a National Environmental Management Programme that will include specific activities to combat desertification, principally in two subprogrammes: "Promotion of participatory and sound management of ecosystems and biodiversity" and "Support for local environmental-management initiatives".

V. ALLOTMENTS FROM THE NATIONAL BUDGET; FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION RECEIVED

The budget estimate for the preparation of the NAP is $366,300. Regarding the involvement of national resources, government departments, NGOs, private institutions and resource persons will all play significant roles in

the elaboration and implementation of the NAP. It is also noteworthy that the Government will make available infrastructure (meeting room, administrative facilities) and resource persons.

The 1999 investment budget allots CFAF 15 million to the NEAP Task Force for support of implementation of conventions, including the Desertification Convention.

Inputs from multilateral sources include $30,000 from the CCD Secretariat and $50,000 from UNDP/UNSO, for a total of $80,000. No support has been forthcoming in the context of bilateral cooperation.

A further $280,000 therefore remains to be found for the NAP process to be taken to conclusion. Without financial support, it will not be possible to hold the first Forum on the NAP process.

In addition, a sum of $200,000 is required for the execution, in support of grass-roots initiatives, of pilot actions identified during the consultations.

Lastly, $400,000 is needed for preparation of the National Environmental-Management Programme, Phase 1.

VI. REVIEW OF BENCHMARKS AND INDICATORS USED TO MEASURE PROGRESS IN COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT

Togo has no reliable information or indicators for monitoring progress in combating desertification. This situation is not conducive to efficient follow-up or assessment of action. There is, therefore, a need for local and regional control of desertification data through variables relating to ecosystems, biodiversity, climate and the socio-economic situation.

A study has been made with a view to the establishment of a data bank and an environmental information and monitoring system (SIE). The system will support information-producing partner institutions by boosting their capacity. At a later stage it will include SID-Togo and be linked to the SID/SISEI West Africa programme now being prepared. The estimated cost is CFAF 250 million within the National Environmental-Management Programme, Phase 1.

Progress reports on Togo's NAP are scheduled to be submitted every three months. The first was made in January 1999. The present document substitutes for the second report. Submission of the third report is scheduled for late July.

TUNISIA

1.1. The concept of sustainable development

Tunisia's concerns regarding the protection of natural resources and the environment have long been more or less explicit and taken into account in the country's economic and social development plans. They have influenced the

country's choice of a form of development that is oriented towards the creation of a mutually supportive and prosperous society where development serves to produce wealth and thus the highest possible growth rates with a view to sustainable development. Underpinning that choice are the efforts already made and to be made to protect natural resources, especially the efforts to combat desertification and improve the quality of life in rural areas.

The progress made in this respect is both noteworthy and appreciable, concerning as it does not only the institutional, legislative and executive spheres but also environmental management, protection of natural resources and nature conservation in the broad sense of the term. For example, the poverty rate has fallen strikingly since independence in 1956: between 1967 and 1990 it dropped from 33 per cent to 6.7 per cent. Thanks to the family planning policy, population growth has also fallen markedly: it was 1.8-2 per cent in 1991-1996 and will be 1 per cent in 2001.

In all of the multiple spheres in which it is pursued, Tunisia's development policy is based on sectoral strategies.

1.2. The development strategies

Regarding the conservation of natural resources, the main strategies are:

The national strategy for water and soil conservation (1999-2000), which covers mainly the integrated management of 672,000 ha in catchment areas, the treatment of 305,000 ha of land for cereals, the maintenance and consolidation of existing hydraulic engineering structures on 850,000 ha, and building of 1,000 catchment ponds and of 4,290 aquifer recharge and spate irrigation structures. The degree of completion of these activities varies depending on the action and the area concerned; for the strategy as a whole it is about 60 per cent;

The strategy against sand encroachment, which aims principally at protecting road infrastructure and farmland, concerns more than 7 million ha, mostly in the south of the country. During the past three decades (1960s, 1970s and 1980s) protection has been provided for 62 oases, 42 farming zones (200,000 ha), 30 villages and main roads in the south and centre. The targets for the 1990s are to create 4,000 km of artificial dunes, increase the height of 8,000 km of dunes, plant vegetation to fix 24,000 ha of already stabilized dunes, and install 5,200 km of windbreaks;

The forestry and pasture strategy calls for the planting of 600,000 ha and the pastoral development of 2,200,000 ha. Work done in 1990-1998 includes the planting of an estimated 256,000 ha of fodder bushes and the development of 170,000 ha of rangeland.

An estimated 210,000 ha of fodder bushes were planted before the strategies were instituted.

Reforestation is an important component of the strategy. It is planned to replant 320,000 ha of barren land. Over 136,000 ha were reforested in 1990-1998, and 238,000 ha in the three previous decades.

In addition to the above strategies there are the strategies for the development and management of natural resources; their aims are to raise the level of living in rural areas and to limit the current processes of degradation of natural resources. The projects concerned are the Projects for Integrated Agricultural Development (PDAI), the Projects for Integrated Rural Development (PDRI) and the Projects for the Development of Vulnerable Zones financed by the National Social Solidarity Fund.

In terms of ancillary measures and support for the physical work, Tunisia has extensive legislation regarding the combating of desertification and considers that it could therefore, if certain conditions were met, both soundly exploit its natural resources and contribute to nature conservation.

1.3 Measures taken to implement the CCD

Tunisia, an active participant in the elaboration of the Convention, was among the first countries to ratify this instrument, doing so in October 1995.

Tunisia's financial, institutional and physical efforts to combat desertification are considerable. Desertification control occupies a leading place in the country's environmental and socio-economic development policy.

The Eighth Plan (1992-1997) allocated some $100 million per year to combating desertification. In view of the importance of controlling desertification for the social and economic development of the regions affected by this scourge, the allotment under the Ninth Plan (1997-2001) is $200 million per year. As the CCD supplements Tunisia's experience in combating desertification, a variety of measures has been taken to implement the Convention:

The creation of the System for Circulating Information on Desertification (SCID) and of a monitoring mechanism

The SCID was designed, in the context of sustainable development, with the assistance of the Sahel and Sahara Observatory (OSS) and will enable information, once selected and validated, to be provided to the various players in a readily intelligible and accessible form. Tunisia has also undertaken with a number of partners, including OSS and the Institute for Tropical Agriculture and Food Crop Research, Marseille, development of a long-term environmental monitoring (chap. viii) system;

The establishment of the National Desertification Control Committee

The National Desertification Control Committee is a coordinating body chaired by the Minister for the Environment and Land Use and comprising representatives of the government agencies with desertification-control functions, professional bodies, NGOs, women's associations, etc. It should be noted that this committee comes under the authority of the National Commission for Sustainable Development, which is chaired by the Prime Minister.

The Desertification Control Committee played an active part in defining the approach recommended for the elaboration and adoption of the National Action Programme (NAP) and the design and approval of the National Desertification Control Fund (FND);

The establishment of local desertification control committees

The local desertification control committees have been set up with the effective participation of professional bodies, NGOs and the local population. They are coordinating bodies and have the same functions as their national counterpart;

The National Desertification Control Fund

The Fund was established according to one of the possible scenarios for its creation devised pursuant to article 21 of the Convention by means of a study conducted by a group of national experts. The group's findings were discussed by the National Desertification Control Committee and one of the proposed scenarios was selected. The study was made with financial assistance from UNDP/UNSO, and the Fund was set up pursuant to articles 22 and 23 of Finance Act No. 97-88 of 29 December 1997;

Legislative aspects

With a view to consolidating the existing legislative advances, the legal departments of the Ministry of the Environment and Land Use are currently drafting a rural code. Questions of desertification control will be given prominence in this document.

1.4 Consultative process and role of women and young people

Improvement of the status of women and promotion of their role in social and economic life have been among the priorities of rural development policy for a number of years now.

In rural areas, women constitute 64.3 per cent of the helpers (unpaid labourers) on family farms, but only 5 per cent of farm managers. Through their direct influence on the rural environment women play a crucial role in the conservation or destruction of natural resources. Cross-cutting "Women and development" boards (covering all the aspects of development) have been instituted under the Eighth development plan (1992-1997).

Support for women's activities in rural areas consists in enabling women to diversify their sources of income by giving them access to loans for small projects relating to crop- or poultry-farming, bee-keeping, handicrafts, etc.

Young people account for 55 per cent of the total population. Mobilizing them and achieving their gradual integration in development projects, especially decisions concerning economic and social development, are essential.

Young people are also included in the process of combating desertification by promotion of their involvement in decision-making

concerning desertification-control projects and activities and in the various committees and working groups. Women's and young people's associations are represented in the national and local desertification-control committees.

1.5 Measures taken in the framework of the NAP

The NAP was drawn up in consultation with the whole range of partners and players at the central level (National Commission for Sustainable Development and National Desertification Control Committee), regional level (structures responsible for regional development) and local level (in particular, the populations of pilot zones affected by desertification).

The priority actions and measures under the NAP are:

(i) Establishment in the middle of the country along the lines of the Institute for Agriculture Research, which has made an enormous contribution to R&D concerning arid zones, of centres for research into specific problems of dry sub-humid and semi-arid areas;

(ii) Establishment of local desertification control committees with the active participation of NGOs, professional bodies and the populations concerned;

(iii) Support for local extension centres, including in particular training of community development workers and use of the participatory approach;

(iv) Establishment of a drought monitoring and early-warning system and of a system for disseminating information on desertification-monitoring;

(v) Periodic updating of quantitative and qualitative assessments of natural resources;

(vi) Promulgation of a pastoral code to supplement the present or future legal tools contained in the code of natural-resource management;

(vii) Continuation of decentralization, especially arrangements for local autonomy in decision-making;

(viii) Establishment of the national desertification control fund under regulations flexible enough to enable rapid and efficient channelling of financial resources to the local level in regions affected by desertification and/or drought;

(ix) Inclusion of the NAP in the National Programme of Action for the Environment and Sustainable Development for the Twenty-first Century (Agenda 21).

The components of the NAP

The NAP has three components:

Consolidation of ongoing projects and actions so as make them more compatible with the spirit of CCD, particularly as regards: provisions on the participatory approach; integration of physical, biological and socio-economic action; and the adoption of a preventive, as well as a remedial approach. This concept was discussed by Agenda 21, with the choice being for a sustainable development strategy that requires the simultaneous combating of poverty and protection of the environment;

The extension of projects for integrated rural development;

Identification of social, institutional and legislative support measures, incentives and complementary measures.

To ensure consistency with the CCD, there will be heavy reliance on grassroots participation in drawing up regional master plans. It is intended that the NAP should draw on the capacities of the country's networks of associations and professional bodies. The need for partnership and cooperation between the parties concerned will entail mutual recognition of the local community's long-term interests and farmers' short-term interests.

1.6 Execution of NAP - costs and financial resources

The area threatened by desertification is estimated at 11.87 million ha (desert zones excluded) and the total area treated against desertification at 2.75 million ha. That leaves some 6.25 million ha still to be dealt with. It is assumed that, over the two decades of implementation of the NAP, the participatory development plans to be drawn up with the local populations according to their priorities for investment and small-scale rural development will concern no more than 50 per cent of the land requiring preventive or remedial action. The hope is, however, that, as involvement in the participatory rural-development cum desertification-control programme improves the sources of income of one part of the population, the remainder of the people will gradually feel encouraged to adopt similar programmes. The estimated cost of implementing the NAP is of the order of $3 billion. The speed of execution of the proposed activities will depend on the availability of funding and on the extension workers' enthusiasm, but above all on rural people's espousal of the process.

1.7 Results of cooperation to implement the CCD

1. Cooperation with bilateral partners

In the context of the effective implementation of the Convention and with particular regard to the implementation of the resolutions on urgent measures to be taken in Africa and on the transitional period, an assistance project was identified with cooperation from Germany. The result of this two-year project was the NAP.

2. Cooperation with multilateral partners

In the same context, Tunisia has had support from UNDP/UNSO for the establishment of the National Desertification Control Fund.

3. Cooperation with the private sector

The private sector has played an important part in raising awareness of the aims of the Convention and of the scale of the problem of desertification. Thanks to the new knowledge they have acquired, local farmers are able to undertake some very effective action using just their own modest budgets.

4. Cooperation with civil society

Civil society (AIC, AFIC, CSA, etc.), NGOs and other professional bodies (which currently number some 7,000) provide constant support for the implementation of the Convention by organizing events to disseminate information concerning it and alert the various actors to their responsibilities. For example, an international workshop on desertification control in the framework of the Convention, entitled "Partners against Desertification", was held at Kairouan from 28 to 30 March 1996 by the Kairouan Association for the Protection of the Environment in collaboration with the European Environmental Bureau and other NGOs. The workshop was held to promote lasting partnerships between NGOs from North and South and between NGOs and institutions. It also resulted in the definition and establishment of a framework for consultation between partners and the definition of possible financing mechanisms for the elaboration, coordination and implementation of National Action Plans.

1.8 The system of indicators for monitoring progress

A series of national-level workshops has been held to define indicators for monitoring progress in implementing the CCD, i.e., indicators of the rate of desertification and indicators of the impact of work to combat desertification. This was done in collaboration with OSS.

In view of desertification control's importance for sustainable development in affected regions, the following are the indicators taken into account in assessing the rate of desertification and the impact of natural-resource protection projects in semi-arid and arid regions:

The human development indicator, comprising the following components:

Life expectancy

Level of knowledge (adult literacy rate and mean number of years of study)

Standard of living as expressed through GDP;

Demographic indicators

Population growth

Population density

Degree of urbanization

Total fertility rate;

Natural resource indicators, comprising the following components:

Percentage of arable land (agricultural area relative to total area)

Useful farm space per caput

Annual rate of deforestation

Annual rate of desertification

Renewable water resources per caput (m³/yr)

Fresh water consumption as percentage of water resources per year

Irrigated land in proportion to arable area

Consumption of marketed energy per caput

Consumption of pesticides (t/1,000 persons).

The system for monitoring the rate of desertification and impact of work to combat desertification forms part of the network for sustainable development, which, in turn, includes a desertification observatory. Updated information on all the components of the environment is published for users' benefit in an annual report entitled "The State of the Environment".

In addition, and pursuant to the decision at COP2, a request for financing for testing of the indicators for monitoring implementation of CCD in Tunisia has been submitted to IFAD. The testing is to be carried out, in collaboration with OSS and under the auspices of the Ministry of the Environment and Land Use, by the Arid Regions Institute at Medenine.

UGANDA

Introduction

Uganda is located in East Africa and is a member of Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), one of the subregions most affected by desertification in Africa. Uganda occupies an area of 241,000 km² of which 80,000 km² is drylands. It has a human population of 19.9 millions of which 90 per cent live in rural areas. Women constitute 51 per cent of this population, contribute 82 per cent of the labour force and account for 80 per cent of the food production (MFPED, 1997).

Uganda's drylands, which receive between 500 mm and 1,000 mm of rainfall occupy an area commonly referred to as the "cattle corridor", stretching from the north-east through central to the south-west of the country. In addition, there are scattered dryland areas throughout the country. These areas receive erratic rainfall often resulting in prolonged periods of drought, to such an extent that some of them already exhibit desert-like conditions.

Uganda actively participated in the negotiations of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), and held the following responsibilities: Vice-Chairman of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification Working Group 2, and Vice-President of COP I in Rome, Italy, in September 1997. It demonstrated its commitment to implementation of the CCD by signing and ratifying it on 21 November 1994 and 25 June 1997, respectively.

Purpose of the National Report

Preparation of a National Report is part of the process of implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The main purpose of the report is to inform other parties to the Convention about the situation in Uganda with regard to the measures being taken to implement the CCD in the country. It also serves to strengthen institutional and human capacity of the CCD National Focal Point in order to improve coordination and implementation of the CCD in the context of fostering sustainable development.

Institutional measures to implement the Convention

Uganda established a multisectoral stakeholder National Coordinating Body (NCB) as the starting point in building a functional partnership in the National Action Programme (NAP) process. It consists of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) as the lead Ministry and a National Steering Committee (NSC) with a wide representation of stakeholders including relevant government departments and institutions, representatives of NGOs and external partners. In addition to the existence of a CCD National Focal Point, a National NGO Coordinating Committee on Desertification (NCCD) consisting of NGOs and CBOs at all levels was established in April 1998 to strengthen NGOs' and CBOs' coordination and participation in the NAP process.

The NSC guides policy formulation and advises Government on matters concerning implementation of the CCD in the country. The NSC activities are based on a work plan designed to guide the implementation of the Umbrella Support Project for the initial support to formulation of the NAP process in Uganda.

Institutional arrangements to ensure that local actors fully participate, control and take ownership of designing and implementing the NAP processes, have resulted in the establishment of District Steering Committees for Combating Desertification (DSCCD) in nine districts.

The Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development (MFPED), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), and MAAIF are charged with the overall supervision of the activities of the NSC. The Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries has to ensure that MAAIF, as the

lead agency, carries out its responsibilities. The MFPED through the Aid Liaison Department carries out supervision, monitoring, and evaluation of activities of the NSC, while NEMA is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that all activities of the NSC are within the broad framework of NEAP.

Key stakeholders participate in guiding and coordinating the NAP process through representation to the NSC, the District Steering Committees on Desertification consisting of representatives of various stakeholder groups, mainly government departments, NGOs, CBOs, the private sector and representatives of external partners. In addition the NCCD working closely with district NGO forums guides and coordinates the activities of NGOs and CBOs in implementation of the CCD. At district level, NGOs also network and exchange information through their district NGO forums.

Participatory process in support of the preparation of the NAP process

In 1998, a series of activities was carried out to raise awareness and solicit views of key actors on priority areas for the NAP. These included:

1. NGO workshop to elaborate coordination and networking arrangements for NGOs involved in combating desertification;

2. A District Team Leaders' workshop on elaboration of the NAP process;

3. District and sub county level stakeholder awareness and consultation workshops;

4. Workshop on Gender considerations in the NAP process;

5. Workshop for sensitizing parliamentarians on the CCD/NAP process;

6. A public lecture on the "Bare hills of South-Western Uganda" organized by the Soil and Water Conservation Society of Uganda;

7. The First National Consultative Forum on the NAP process to Combat Desertification in Uganda;

8. Sensitization Workshop for Makerere University academic community;

9. Workshop on Rehabilitation of rangelands using forage legumes; and

10. Commemoration of the World Day to Combat Desertification.

The NCB has utilized the local councils, and women and youth councils established under the Uganda Constitution as a means for mobilizing local communities and raising awareness of the NAP process at all levels.

Awareness-raising activities about the CCD and its innovative approaches including the launching of the National Action Programme (NAP) process involving a wide cross-section of stakeholders, have been going on. Mass media programmes and campaigns to this effect have been organized under the

Umbrella Support Project of the NAP process initiated in January 1998. The message and contents for the campaigns emphasized social and economic issues, land degradation, gender concerns, participation of NGOs, CBOs, private sector and the affected communities regarding desertification.

On gender, the Government of Uganda has taken steps to provide an enabling environment for gender consideration in development programmes by creating the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development. The Constitution also established local councils from village to district level and stipulates that one-third of each committee/council at all levels be women. In addition, the Constitution creates special councils for women and youth from village to national level. The NAP process has used all these structures to involve local communities in the awareness and consultation activities in the NAP process. Despite the enabling environment, women's participation in the NAP process is still low, registering only 27 per cent.

National Plans and Strategies

Prior to the UNCCD, some steps had been taken to address the problems of drought and desertification. In September 1977, for instance, Uganda participated at the United Nations Conference on Desertification, which was held in Nairobi. In 1981 Uganda hosted a mission from UNSO which recommended that the Government initiates the formulation of a national strategy to combat desertification and establish a machinery within the Government for coordinating and implementing the strategy and translating it into concrete programmes and activities. Furthermore, from 1991 to 1994, the Government of Uganda developed a National Environment Action Plan (NEAP) providing a framework for addressing deforestation, soil erosion, rangeland deterioration, fuel-wood shortages, loss of biodiversity, and drainage of wetlands. The Action Plan presents practical solutions and options in the areas of policy, institutional reforms and new investments with a view to promoting sustainable socio-economic development by changing people's ways of utilizing and conserving natural resources.

Initiatives taken in other socio-economic areas which are of relevancy to combating desertification include: the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP); Water Action Plan; National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan; Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme; Karamoja Project Implementation Unit; Famine Early Warning and Disaster Preparedness; Livestock Systems Project; Dryland Husbandry Development through Conservation; Poverty Eradication and Food Security in the Luwero Triangle; and Mt. Elgon Conservation Project.

In 1993, a Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) was formulated with a goal of eradicating absolute poverty by the year 2017. The PEAP aims at promoting interactions, which improve the quality of life of the poor, and also directly enhances the potential for increasing incomes of the target groups.

Presently there are a number of ongoing programmes and projects in agriculture and natural resources management embodying CCD principles, and require integration in the NAP process. These include, among others, Poverty Alleviation Project, Agriculture Sector Management Programme, Water Resources

Monitoring and Assessment Project, Collaborative Management of Forestry Resources, Uganda Photovoltaic Pilot Project for Rural Electrification, East African Cross-Border Biodiversity Project and Dryland Husbandry Project. The Government of Uganda is promoting utilization of climate information and prediction products in the planning and administration of socio-economic sectors, in particular the agriculture industry.

However, the information system for the NCB is still limited in terms of facilities and the information base in other relevant sectors is very weak, and the available data is sometimes not precise. Information exchange, circulation, and transfer involves the use of leaflets, posters, flip charts, TV and radio programmes, newspaper articles, use of electronic media and documentary films on land degradation and activities undertaken to reverse it.

Legal and regulatory frameworks

With regard to legislation on the environment and related fields, the Uganda Constitution of 1995 provides a sound basis upon which environmental laws are made in the country. A number of laws have recently been enacted in the field of natural resources utilization and environment conservation and management. They include the National Environment Statute, No. 4 of 1995; the Land Act, 1998; the Local Government Act, 1997; the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation, 1998; the Water Statute, 1995; and the Uganda Wildlife Statute, 1996. Also in existence are the Forest Act, 1964; the Prohibition of Burning of Grass Decree, Decree No. 5 of 1974; the Soil Conservation Act, 1964; the Cattle Grazing Act, Cap 222, 1964; and the Town and Country Planning Act, 1964.

National Action Programme financing, support and technical cooperation

The initial phase of the NAP process in Uganda has been facilitated by government agencies, NGOs, and external partners. On its part the Government makes a contribution by providing office accommodation and meets salaries of government officers working at the NAP secretariat and those serving on the National Steering Committee (NSC). The UNSO and UNDP provided funds for initiating the NAP process in the country through the Umbrella Support Project. Support has also been extended to some selected local community initiatives to build their capacity in the implementation of the NAP process in the districts of Nakasongola, Kamuli, Mbarara, Kotido, Moroto, and Pallisa through NGOs. A project Promoting Farmers' Innovations (PFI) was launched in 1998 to enhance exchange and adoption of farmer innovations relevant to combating desertification in the districts of Kumi, Soroti, and Katakwi, and has already registered tremendous success. The steps taken so far, however, have covered a small portion of the affected areas largely due to the limited resources available. Other donors who have supported related activities include GTZ, DANIDA, the Australian Government, USAID, FAO, CCD secretariat, and international NGOs such as LWF, World Vision, EcoNews Africa, IUCN, and SNV.

With regard to technical cooperation in the context of combating desertification, Uganda has benefited from UNSO, CCD secretariat, SNV, USAID, the Australian Government, IUCN, and EcoNews Africa who have facilitated and provided consultants. Technical cooperation is, however, still required in a

number of priority programme areas particularly research in the fields of soil and water conservation and management, sustainable utilization and management of drylands, and development of appropriate technologies for rural development.

The Government of Uganda has taken steps to establish a Uganda National Fund to Combat Desertification (UNFCD). A bill to that effect has been prepared and is to be presented to parliament soon. The bill provides for grants and micro-credit to be availed to finance community activities that address drought, desertification and poverty.

Mechanisms for convening international partners and exchange of views with the Government exist but are yet to be effectively utilized to achieve greater participation of international partners in the NAP process. Uganda participated in preparation of the subregional action programmes within the framework of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD).

Measures planned within the NAP framework

During the First National Forum on the NAP process held from 18 to 20 November 1998, it was resolved that efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought focus primarily at grass-roots community levels. In addition, measures to address capacity building as well as priority programme areas and activities for short, medium, and long-term action plan were agreed upon. These include:

- Enhancing information generation and exchange by setting up information networks between stakeholders, and developing databases on desertification;

- Promote training and awareness raising by including topics on desertification and drought in the national school curriculum, continued sensitization of high-level policy and decision makers, extension staff, NGOs, CBOs and local communities particularly women and youth groups;

- Support local community initiatives to combat desertification through provision of micro-credit grants and establish a UNFCD;

- Review policies and strategies relevant to NAP;

- Provide institutional support to activities of NSC and DSCD, and strengthen the National CCD Focal Point and the NCCD;

- Improve soil management and conservation by training farmers and pastoral communities in soil fertility conservation, range and land management;

- Development of alternative sources of energy;

- Promotion of afforestation programmes; and

Development of appropriate technologies for combating desertification.

A number of measures are also envisaged to increase people's knowledge on desertification. These include: setting up an information network of key stakeholders and affected areas; inclusion of topics on desertification and drought in the school curriculum; continued sensitization and training of policy and decision-makers, and extension workers in the relevant sectors; collection and dissemination of indigenous knowledge, and technologies on combating desertification.

Conclusion

In the initial phase of the NAP process in Uganda a number of stakeholders have been consulted and made aware of the UNCCD. They have also been sensitized on the need to formulate and implement the Action Programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. The NAP consultation process culminated into the First National Forum on NAP in Uganda during which a number of priority programme areas were identified for short, medium and long-term action plans. The second phase of the NAP process will, therefore, focus on the development and implementation of sector, district and community level priority programmes.

The Government of Uganda recognizes that for the successful implementation of the UNCCD efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought must focus primarily at the grass-roots community level. In view of this, major steps have been taken at the national level towards the establishment of a UNFCD. The fund is expected to provide a sustainable source of funding for community level activities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. Operationalization of the fund and its capitalization are areas in which support from external partners is called for.

For the successful implementation of the NAP process and programmes there is a need for all stakeholders to participate. Participation of interest groups particularly women, pastoralists and the private sector in the NAP process should be strengthened. In addition sensitization of and collaboration with external partners need to be increased to enhance their support to the NAP process in Uganda.

The weaknesses in information generation and exchange among the key actors in implementation of the CCD in Uganda need to be addressed. There is need to further develop the information system on desertification by strengthening data collection through research, analysis and dissemination to support planning processes at all levels. Support for capacity building from external partners in this area is welcome.

ZAMBIA

The international community has long recognized that desertification is a major socio-economic and environmental problem of concern to many countries of the world. As a result the issue of how to tackle desertification was one of the major concerns at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and

Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro. On the same note, the Government and the people of Zambia have recognized the havoc that can be caused by desertification and drought in the country. To address this concern a number of plans and strategies have been developed and are reviewed now and again and new strategies put in place. Zambia has also joined the international community, which is trying to find long lasting solutions to the problems by signing and ratifying the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in 1994 and 1996 respectively. As a result a number of activities are being undertaken to implement the provisions of the Convention. Some of them are multi-sectoral while others are sectoral.

Some of the plans and strategies, which have been and are being pursued beside the implementation of the Convention, which in one way or the other contributes to the combating of desertification and/or mitigation of drought, include:

- National Conservation Strategy (1985);
- Zambia Forestry Action Plan (1993);
- National Environment Action Programme (1994);
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (1997);
- Environment Support Programme (1997);
- Community Based Natural Resources Management (1998);
- Agriculture Sector Investment Policy (1997);
- Road Rehabilitation and Construction Investment Programme (1997);
- Review of Environmental Related Legislation;
- National Poverty Reduction Programme;
- Climate Change Programme;
- Soil Conservation and Agro-Forestry Programme;
- Rural Electrification Programme;
- Zambia Environment Education Programme.

The Government is implementing the strategies with support from various donor partners. A number of national non-governmental organizations, local communities and the private sector are also participating in the execution of these programmes.

Some of these plans and strategies have recommended a review of the institutional organization for improved management of the environment and natural resources. From the recommendations of the National Conservation Strategy, the Environment Council of Zambia (ECZ) was established in 1990.

The ECZ is responsible for advising the Government on issues of environment protection and pollution control and also ensuring compliance with formulated environmental regulations. In addition, a Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources was created in 1992. The mission of the ministry is to provide an environmental policy framework, monitor, evaluate and coordinate its implementation, management and utilization of natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Institutional Coordination of NAP

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR) is the supreme body on environmental issues in Zambia. In order to facilitate the process of preparing a National Action Programme to Combat Desertification, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources established a National Steering Committee in 1997. This Committee is chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the MENR and is responsible for providing policy and technical guidance to the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. The Committee is multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral in nature and is constituted by 17 senior officials representing different organizations. There are six female members of the Committee (38 per cent) and the ratio of government departments to civil society organizations is 7 to 10. Terms of Reference were developed and adopted by both the Committee and the MENR.

For the day-to-day implementation of activities on the Convention, a number of supporting organs have been established to coordinate and take a lead. These are:

The National Focal Point which is housed in the Department of Planning and Information (PID) in the MENR;

The NGO National Focal Point which is "The Zambia Alliance of Women";

NGO National Steering Committee on Desertification;

District Development Coordination Committees were not necessarily established for the NAP process but have been in place for some time. The NAP process has taken advantage of their presence and their environmental subcommittees.

The National Steering Committee meets regularly, on a quarterly basis and sometimes more frequently as need arises, to discuss various issues pertaining to the implementation of the Convention and the NAP process. A work plan is prepared on an annual basis, which is guided by the availability of resources. The operations of the Steering Committee are funded by the Government through the budget allocated to the MENR. A sum of US$ 100,000 was received from UNDP/UNSO for the initiation of the NAP process.

For communication purposes each member of the Steering Committee is expected to report back to the institutions and organizations they represent. Communication amongst members of the Steering Committee is mainly through meetings, distribution of minutes from meetings, distribution of documents, and the use of communication facilities, i.e. telephone, fax and e-mail.

The National Steering Committee has access to a number of information systems and databases being kept by different institutions that are members. The National Focal Point coordinating the NAP process has used quite a number of these facilities as sources of information and for information dissemination.

Some activities undertaken by the National Steering Committee

Since its establishment in 1997 the Steering Committee has implemented a number of activities as part of the NAP process. Such activities include:

- Institutional strengthening at the grass-roots level to facilitate the implementation of the NAP process;
- Awareness-raising campaigns, consultations and capacity building;
- Development of an information kit;
- Inventory of key stakeholders;
- NGO/CBOs needs assessment.

The National Steering Committee has three programmes in the pipeline, the documentation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Catalytic support to two communities on a pilot basis and the establishment of a National Desertification Fund.

The Participatory Process

The Government of Zambia has a communication mechanism in place for reaching the local communities. The communication channels are through the district authorities. In addition a sectoral communication mechanism has been established through the District Environmental Facilitators, Forestry and Agriculture Extension Officers at the local level. Both channels were utilized during the awareness-raising campaigns and consultations. The messages delivered during the campaigns were chosen based on: the understanding of environmental issues by the target audience; the expected reaction; time and resources available. The mode of communication and media chosen was mainly on the bases of: the geographical location of the target group; coverage and accessibility by the target group; and the cost involved.

In preparations for the awareness raising and consultations some UNCCD information documents were translated into four local languages, Tonga, Lozi, Bemba and Nyanja. The translated material was distributed to the relevant communities.

The issue of women participation in the NAP process has also been taken very seriously. Special attempts were made to have as many women participating as possible and issues papers addressing the role of women in combating desertification were given at consultative and awareness-raising workshops. The Government of Zambia is also in the process of finalizing a gender policy which will empower women to participate in the decision-making process in the country.

The NAP process has gone through a number of stages and these include:

National Awareness Days held in 1994;

Workshops for specialized groups to support in raising awareness;

A review of existing and/or proposed projects and programmes relating to combating desertification and the mitigation of the effects of drought;

Four provincial awareness and consultation workshops in 1998;

NGO/CBO National Forum;

The National Forum 1998

The First National Forum was held in Lusaka from 22 to 23 December 1998. The Forum was mainly focused at reaching agreements on priority issues for the NAP and identifying catalytic actions that need to be launched immediately.

It has not been possible to cover all the target areas due to the large size of the country and financial problems. The challenge from communities reached in the awareness campaigns is to ensure that awareness is carried out as a component of an overall programme of action and not as a stand alone activity. To this effect Zambia has provided a follow up by using existing environmental awareness and education programmes such as the Environment Education and Awareness Programmes (EEAP) of the Environment Support Programme (ESP). This is done in order to maintain the momentum and interest created at the local level.

Consultations with Developed Country Parties

The Government of Zambia has endeavoured to interest and involve the international partners in the preparation of the National Action Programme right from the beginning of the consultation process. The Government has invited international partners to national and provincial workshops. In addition the NCCD through the National Focal Point has sent circulars and has had discussions with some of the donor partners. UNCCD is also an observer member in the NSC hence providing a link between the Committee and the donor community. A number of cooperating partners have responded positively to invitations and have promised to support the NAP once adopted as a national document. However the involvement of international partners has not been that many. The number of them responding to invitations has been low. This can be attributed to the level of awareness of the donor community on the UNCCD and its provisions and to the specific agendas which donors have for their funding and support.

NAP Programme Areas

There is no action programme in place yet. The consultative workshops and First National Forum provided relevant data and information that would be used for the preparation of the NAP document, which would spell out the Action Programme. New approaches identified by the National Forum include:

- Fostering inter-sectoral linkages;

- Promoting capacity building at district and village levels;

- Empowering local communities in their role as custodians of the natural resource base and in tackling environmental concerns that include land degradation;

- Shifting from government-driven approaches to community lead initiatives.

Financial Support and Requirements

The Government of Zambia has funded a number of activities towards the development and implementation of the NAP process in the country as donor funds were not forthcoming. Though it is not easy to put a figure on the financial contribution by the Government, the majority of the activities have been funded from the local budget. In addition the Government is providing the following:

(a) Human Resources: The facilitation and implementation of the UNCCD in Zambia is totally being managed by Zambians themselves who are employees of the Government drawn from various departments.

(b) The Government is also providing office space, transport, facilities and exemptions from tax to all material and equipment imported from abroad for the UNCCD activities.

In order to facilitate access by local actors to funding, the Government in 1998 established a Pilot Environment Fund under the ESP to finance community-based environment and natural resource management programmes and studies targeted at finding practical solutions on environmental problems. It is envisaged that some CCD activities can be financed from this fund. It is hoped that a fully-fledged National Environment Fund will be established taking into account lessons that will be obtained from the pilot fund.

The following financial assistance to the NAP process has been received:

(a) The UNCCD secretariat US$ 8,000 for financing the National Awareness Days;

(b) UNECA provided some assistance for a review of existing and/or proposed projects and programmes relating to combating desertification and assessment of the implications of financial resources for the NAP process and preparation of a framework support document for mobilization of the resources;

(c) UNDP/UNSO provided US$ 100,000 for catalyzing the NAP process.

(d) The UNCCD secretariat has supported the participation of two delegates to INCD meetings and to the CODPs. In addition local participants have been funded to participate in regional consultative meetings and workshops.

(e) SADC-ELMS has also supported the attendance of national participants to subregional workshops and consultative meetings.

Technical Cooperation Received

Zambia has been receiving technical support in the form of experts and inputs on the NAP process from a number collaborating partners including: UNDP/UNSO, SADC-ELMS and the UNCCD secretariat. UNDP/UNSO and SADC-ELMS have constantly been providing technical backstopping support on the NAP process through their physical presence or through comments communicated to the NFP.

Financial and Technical Cooperation Needed

Drafting the NAP document

An amount of US$ 20,000 will be required for this activity.

This will include payment for the drafting team, holding a National Forum to approve the document, publication and distribution of documents.

Implementation of a catalytic support programme

An agreement has been reached that there is need to implement pilot catalytic activities in two highly degraded districts. This is planned to get the local communities committed after all the awareness campaigns. This will include the documentation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems on combating desertification, which would be applied in these pilot areas. This programme will require an amount of US$ 200,000.

Establishment of a National Desertification Fund

There is an urgent need of financial support for the formulation of a National Desertification Fund. This is required to finance the implementation of the NAP, which will be in place shortly, and also community piloted projects. An amount of US$ 40,000 is required for this purpose.

Benchmarks and Indicators

The Environment Council of Zambia (ECZ) is responsible for environment monitoring and giving warnings on its findings. At the moment no mechanism has been put in place for monitoring land degradation and no standards have been developed. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources through its Planning and Information Department is working on the development of indicators for monitoring progress in the different programmes under the ministry of which desertification is one of them. For the purpose of assessing progress on the NAP process benchmarks and indicators adopted by SADC member States have been used in this report.

ZIMBABWE

A multiplicity of factors have had a negative impact on the quality and quantity of resources in Zimbabwe leading to environmental and land degradation. Human activities and poverty have culminated in a number of

environmental problems related to drastic changes in land use, technology, farming systems and economic demands on resources. The three-tier land tenure system, inherited from the colonial past of Zimbabwe, designated land into communal, large-scale commercial and small-scale commercial farming areas with the resultant income disparities and imbalances in ownership of resources including less access to land by small holder farmers. These problems are worsened by the frequent occurrence of droughts compounded by excessive concentrations of human and livestock populations in ecologically marginal, dry and fragile environments in communal, small-scale commercial and resettlement areas.

Energy issues are also at the centre of land degradation in the rural sector. The over-dependence of rural communities on fuel-wood to meet their energy requirements has contributed to massive deforestation, which in turn has lead to soil erosion, land degradation and water shortages through the siltation of rivers and dams. Land degradation in the rural sector has contributed to rural-urban migration creating environmental problems related to the urban poor. The growth of the urban sector in Zimbabwe has contributed to environmental problems such as pollution, which need urgent attention.

The problems of poverty and land degradation can also be understood in the context of the country's development strategies during the last few decades. A number of initiatives to address these problems have been taken by Government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industry and the international donor community but very little impact has been made. The major contributing factor to this poor performance has been the lack of a properly coordinated planning framework that is based on the participation of all interested stakeholders, particularly the affected local communities. Secondly, much of the development planning system has paid little attention to the intricate relationship between human and environmental well-being. The environment sector has been viewed as a separate sector standing outside the human well-being development planning equation. Society and the environment cannot be thought as two separate ecosystems; they are inextricably linked. The human society is part of the wider ecology. It is necessary, therefore, that environmental management be done in the context of the overall human-environment well-being development process. The effective participation of all affected groups of the society in the integrated environmental and human well-being development process is key to the success and self-sustainability of whatever action plans emanate from the process. The NAP process is therefore expected to tie together these loose ends to ensure programme success through the facilitation of effective coordination/collaboration, partnership building and stakeholder participation.

In addition to the problems identified above, institutional and legislative arrangements for environmental management have been identified as hindering effective environmental policy delivery. There are many institutions, at least eighteen (18) ministries in the country, which have some responsibility over environmental management. Environmental legislation is fragmented and scattered among these different jurisdictions and at times this creates policy conflicts. Harmonization is currently being undertaken with the aim to streamline legislation under the various actors and reduce the fragmentation.

The major problems to be tackled under the NAP relate to and/or are inclusive of the following:

(a) Land degradation - which manifests itself mainly in the form of accelerated soil erosion. The problem is a result of over exploitation and mismanagement of natural resources among other causes;

(b) Deforestation - which is a result of over-dependence on fuel wood to meet energy requirements in rural areas;

(c) Water shortage - due to siltation of rivers and dams and frequent droughts;

(d) Lack of environmental policy. Unstreamlined environmental legislation as stated above;

(e) Poverty - the major problem keep being the vicious cycle;

(f) Loss of biodiversity;

(g) Air and water pollution.

The Zimbabwean Government has responded to these environmental problems through a number of statutory instruments, policies, strategies and programmes. Many of these initiatives address recognized environmental and natural resources management needs of the various stakeholder groups.

The Government of Zimbabwe designated the Ministry of Mines Environment and Tourism as the focal point for the implementation of the NAP process leading to the setting up of the National Task Force as a mechanism for coordination and harmonization of actions to combat land degradation at national and local levels. The institutional framework for the NAP process is expected to consist of the NAP secretariat and the NAP management structure. The Department of Natural Resources, as the Government's implementing agency, together with the National Task Force on Desertification have taken lead in the implementation of the NAP process ensuring that all stakeholders and collaborators are involved in effective implementation of the NAP process at the national level. At provincial and district levels, the Provincial Development Committee (PDC) and the Rural District Development Committee (RDDC) spearhead the NAP implementation assisted by the District Strategy Teams (DSTs) established through the District Environmental Action Plan (DEAP).

A number of activities have been undertaken by the National Task Force and other stakeholders that include production of background information, holding national forums and improving the public awareness level on the CCD among others. The need for a properly articulated communication strategy was recognized early on in the formation of the National Task Force but due to lack of budgetary support, this has not yet been done. There, however, already exists institutional channels of communications, which the Task Force has relied upon, these include: the use of networks, associations, and national administrative and political structures at the national, provincial and district levels.

The need for the active participation of international partners in the preparation and implementation of the NAP has been well articulated in the CCD document. The support of various international agencies, amongst them the secretariat to the CCD, Office to Combat Desertification (UNSO), United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), have played a major role in giving both technical and financial support to the preparation and implementation of the NAP. In addition some support has also been received through bilateral and multilateral programmes from such countries as Australia and Denmark, to name a few. Substantial support, both financial and technical, has been received from UNSO/UNDP in support of the preparation of the National Desertification Fund and the NAP formulation process.

Subsequent to the NAP formulation process, substantial diagnostic work on past experience in the area of combating desertification was undertaken. This was through the support of UNSO under the Australian Support Fund. This work played a major role in understanding the problems the country was facing in the area of drought and desertification. The study also gave some recommendations on the possible way forward especially in possible areas of technical intervention. Following intensive deliberations in the First and Second National Forums held on 4-7 August 1997 and 24-26 November 1998 respectively, six priority programme areas have now been identified. These include water, energy, poverty eradication (alternative livelihoods), land rehabilitation, education (public awareness and capacity building), and environmental information systems. The selection of these programme areas was undertaken after an intensive consultation process by the Task Force to determine current ongoing projects/programmes related to desertification control and the possible role of the NAP in further enhancing them.

Zimbabwe has identified various possible sources of funding for its NAP process. These sources have been categorized into two viz.: domestic (national) and external (international). Realizing that the sustainability of the NAP process financing depends on mobilization of local resources, the potential domestic sources that have been identified, include but are not limited to:

Fiscal allocations from Government (both recurrent and public sector investment programmes);

- Financial and technical support from NGOs;
- Financial and other support from the private sector;
- Financial and other support from public sector organizations such as parastatals;
- Local authorities and municipalities;
- Co-contributions to projects by the benefiting communities;
- The creation of a National Environment Revolving Fund;
- Investments.

Whilst Zimbabwe has articulated the likely sources of funds for the NAP process, accessing funds from these sources is dependent on:

- The development of bankable project proposals for funding;
- The design and establishment of an entity separate from central government financial management systems, through which resource providers could channel funds to projects; and
- Government commitment to the NAP process.

Since the NAP document has yet to be adopted by Government, efforts on mobilization of resources have mainly centred on preparatory work to identify activities to be prioritized in the NAP as well as the design and establishment of one of the effective methods of financing the NAP.

The issue of development of benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the formulation and implementation of the NAP programme has been a subject of discussion by the national task force on desertification at its various meetings. The task force agreed that the NAP process in Zimbabwe will pass through three phases namely:

- Phase One: which focuses on raising awareness, partnership building and building of an institutional framework at national level and identification of national priorities.
- Phase Two: this phase would focus on formulation of NAP activities in preparation of the implementation phase.
- Phase Three: phase three would deal with activities for ensuring NAP implementation. This phase is viewed as the practical implementation of the objectives and activities outlined in the NAP document.

There is still need to perfect the benchmarks and indicators that have been identified for each of the above phases. More time is required before their effectiveness can be evaluated, this is particularly so for the NAP implementation phase which is still in its infancy.

It is important to note that UNCCD principles of partnership building and participatory development approaches have been accepted in Zimbabwe, by Government, NGOs, the private sector and affected communities. This is an important strength for sustainability of future effort. This acceptance has been the result of an extensive awareness drive by the National Task Force (that held workshops and forums to inform and educate communities countrywide). One of the notable achievements is the establishment of an NGO coordinating body specifically to liaise with the focal point on CCD issues, in particular but not exclusively covering, the production of a newsletter in the vernacular, documentation of indigenous knowledge on combating desertification and drought, and the promotion of exchange visits. Although these successes have been scored, one weakness has been the absence of a systematic assessment of the impacts of activities undertaken to date. It would be prudent to carry out this evaluation in order to provide pointers on areas of future intervention and redress past errors. For example, the

information kit to schools, is a simplified synthesis of the CCD that provides practical examples and graphical presentations to facilitate understanding of desertification and drought issues. There is, however, a need to evaluate the extent of use of the kit and the impact on pupils. Some of the consultative processes, however, helped to gather information that would make the NAP more coherent and harmonized with other development programmes. All that is needed now is the analysis of the information and eventual integration of NAP into related ongoing programmes. This will enable efficient and effective use of scarce national resources through integration of activities.

Since the ratification of the CCD, various measures have been undertaken to implement provisions of the convention and are classified into institutional, technical and financial. With the support of UNSO funded by the Australian Support Fund, substantial diagnostic work of past experience with combating desertification was undertaken. This work played a major role in increasing the understanding of the problems the country is facing in the area of drought and desertification. It is clear that priorities in Zimbabwe hinge on six major programme areas, namely:

- Water resource provision;
- Energy provision;
- Provision of alternative livelihoods;
- Education, public awareness and capacity building;
- Land rehabilitation;
- Environmental Information System for the NAP Process.

The selection of these programmes is a result of extensive consultations undertaken by the Task Force. A spillover benefit from these consultations was further insight into the possible institutional arrangements necessary for implementation of specific activities related to the identified priorities.

To date, a National Desertification Fund proposal document has been prepared including accounting and operational manuals. Once endorsed by the Zimbabwe Government through Cabinet and Parliament, it is envisaged that this will mark the beginning of a concerted effort to implement more vigorously activities within the prioritized programmes for which consensus has been reached.